

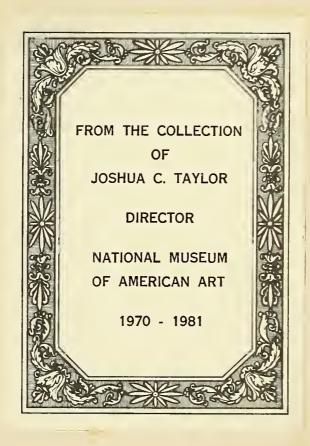
AN ULUSTAATER STREET

GENEW NEAK

PLACES OF AMUSEMENT











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NEW - YORK - PLAISANCE



NUMBER ONE MDCCCCVIII AN ILLUSTRATED SERIES OF NEW YORK OPLACES OF AMUSEMENT

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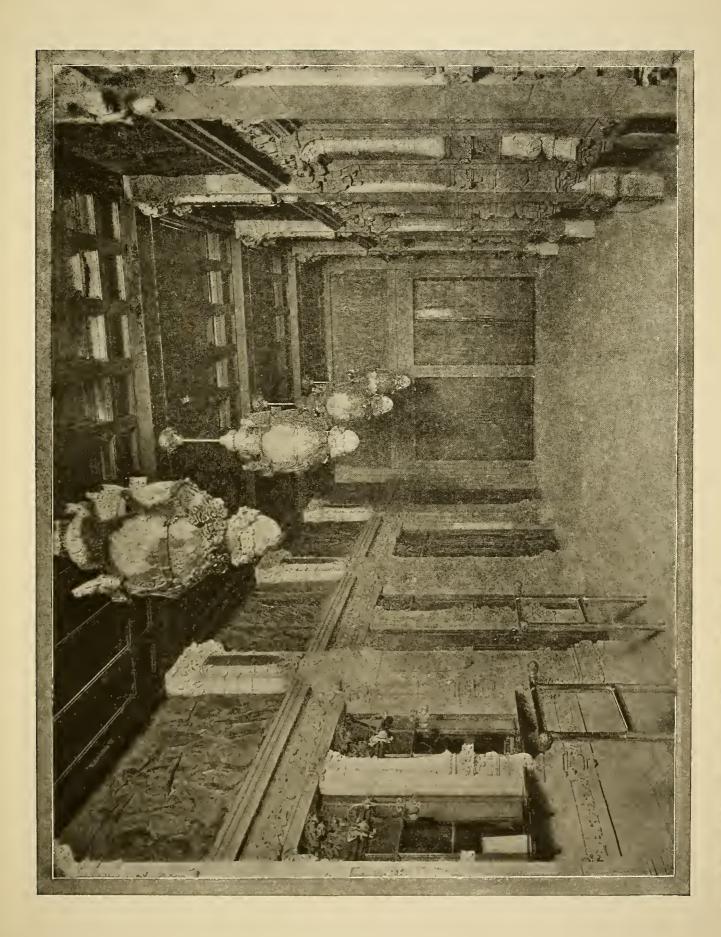
Copyright 1908 by Henry Erkins.



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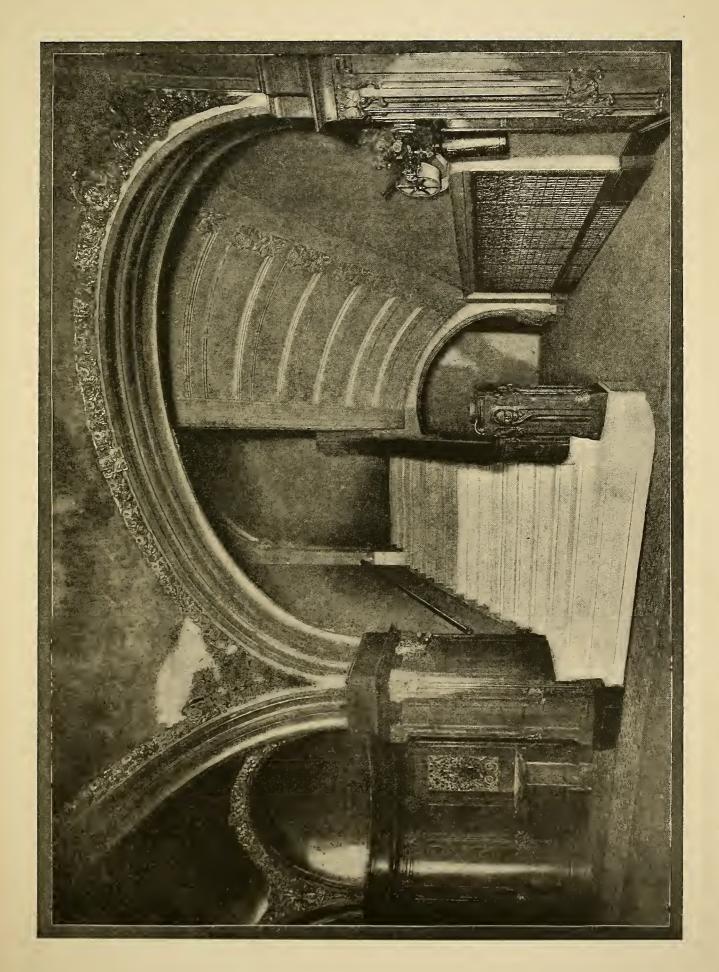




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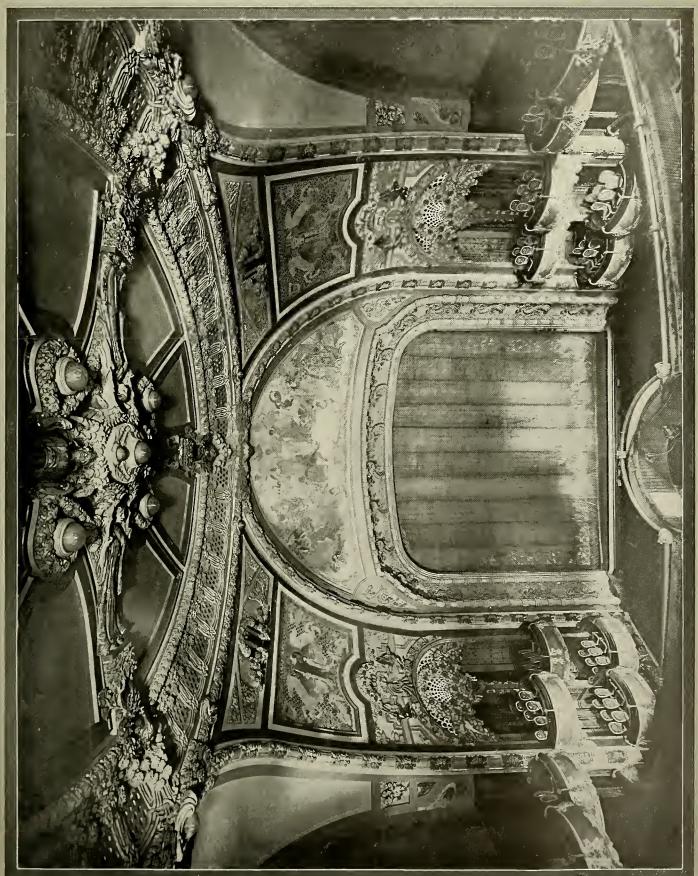












Auditorium, New Amsterdam Theatre

Disposition of boxes and allegorical decorative panel above the box tier, New Amsterdam Theatre. Occupants of boxes have unobstructed view of the stage and of all parts of the house.





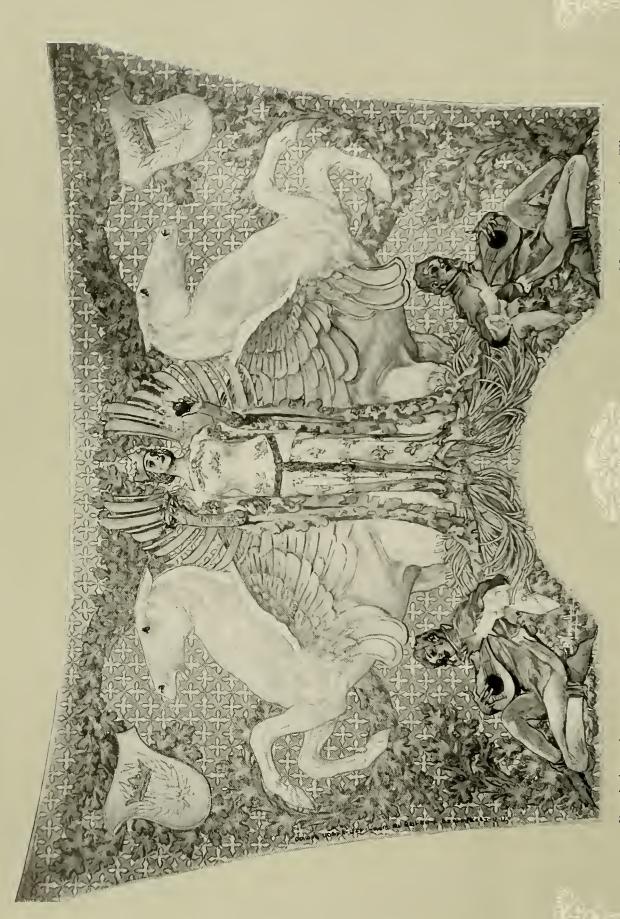






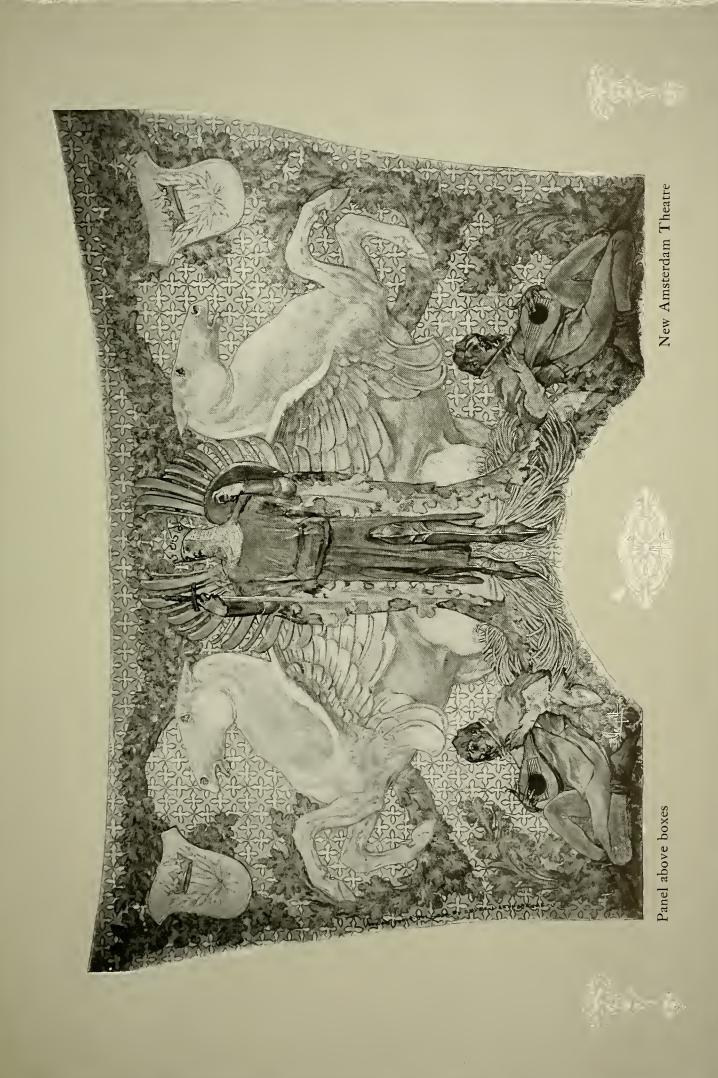


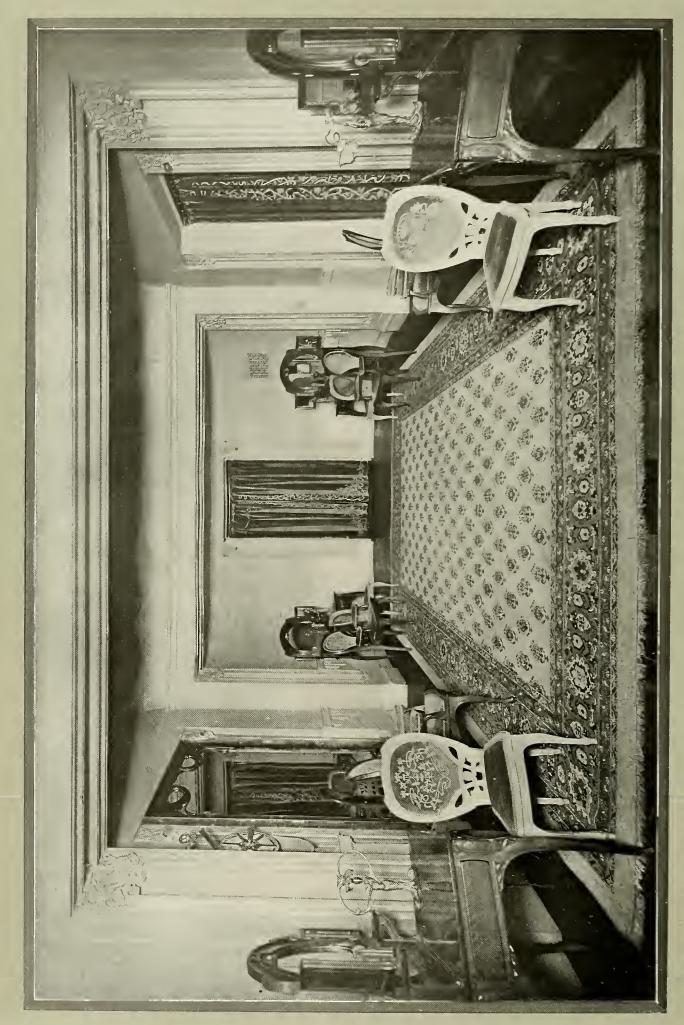




New Amsterdam Theatre

Panel above boxes





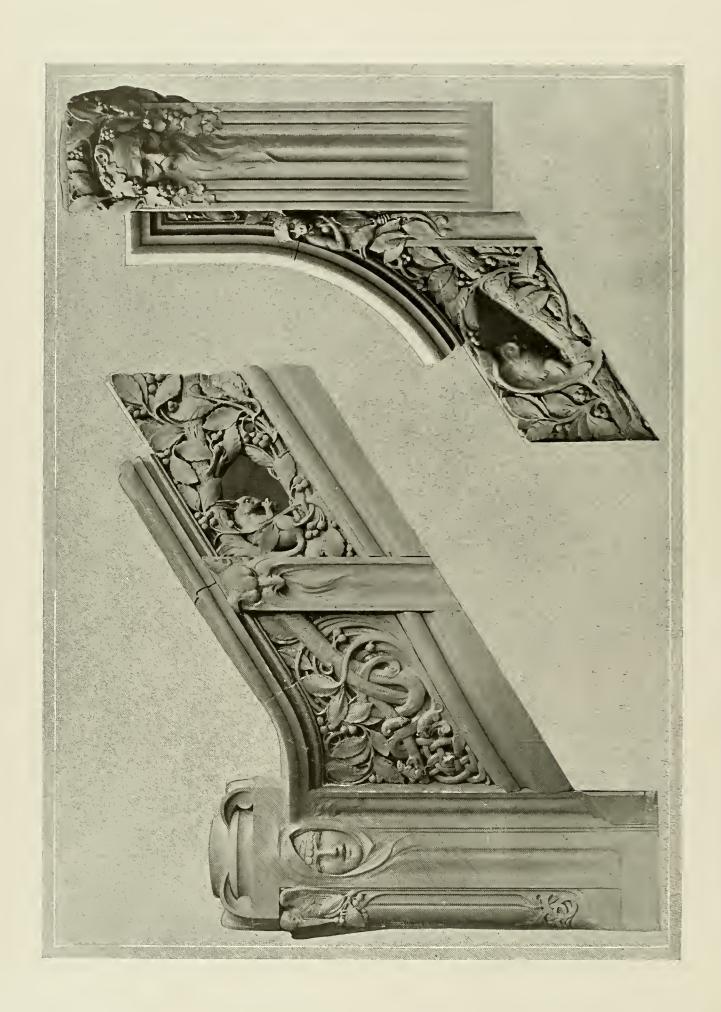
Ladies' Waiting Room, New Amsterdam Theatre

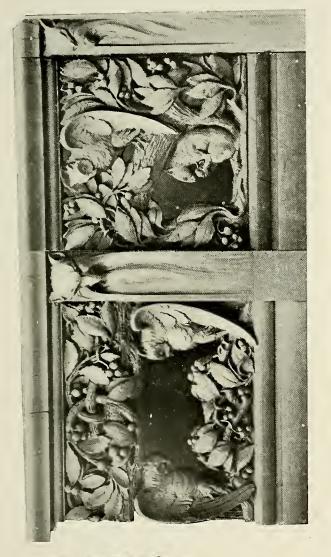


Lounging Room, New Amsterdam Theatre

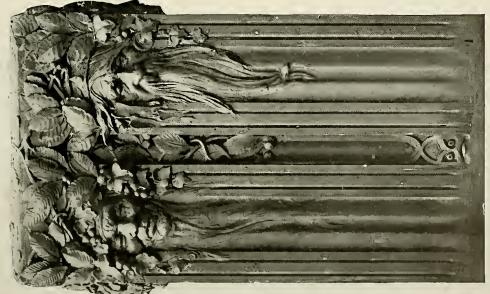


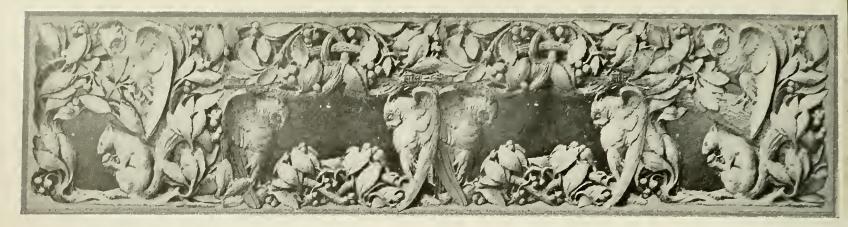




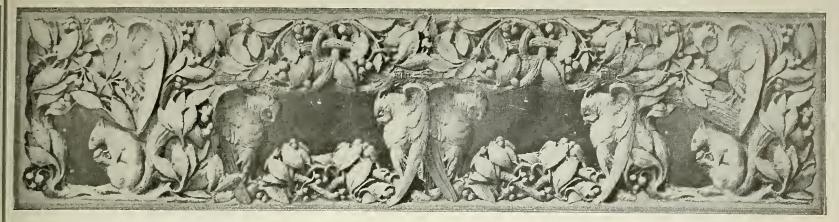


Grotesque, although by no means unsightly in effect, the relief-work in the balustrade, pilasters and newels of the staircase of the New Amsterdam Theatre, is original and unique, as regards its subject-matter. An elaborate combination of fruits and foliage, with the animal life—squirrels, birds, etc., associated with them, it will appeal alike to the artist and to the lover of nature, who will find much to admire, both in its artistic grace and in the fidelity to nature displayed in its chief features. The accompanying illustrations show some of the details of this admirable work.





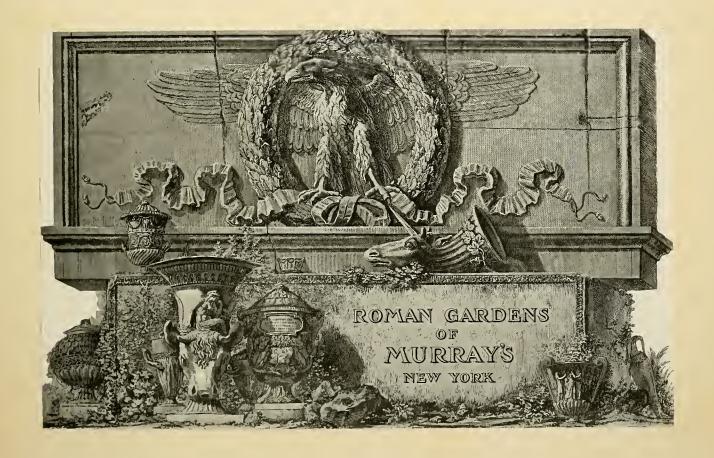
RECORD of the progress of New York as a community, to cover the past decade, which might properly include a list of the additions made to the city's architectural marvels, the improvements in methods of transportation, the growth of the city's commerce and industries, the increase in her share of the world's wealth, and the manifold additions made to her artistic treasures, while instructive and interesting, would be incomplete without reference to the marked development in the means of recreation and pleasure, the Empire City of the west affords. It is a notable fact that the provisions made for the entertainment of New Yorkers, and of those sojourning within the city's limits, have advanced of late by leaps and bounds, not alone in variety and originality, but in the direction of refinement; and, while the reckless abandon that characterizes pleasure-seeking in some cities has never found place in the metropolis of the western world, we have at our command means of enjoyment that are alike unique, luxurious and recherche, and which appeal especially to those whose appreciation of the good things of life is materially enchanced by refined and artistic surroundings. Those who cater to the entertainment of the public, have developed an increasing tendency to meet this happy evolution of the general taste, and among the establishments in which this commendable ambition is particularly in evidence, we accord the foremost place, by right of elegance and their unique character, to the New Amsterdam Theatre on West Forty-second Street, New York, and Murray's Restaurant, with its exquisite Roman gardens, on the same thoroughfare. In the New Amsterdam Theatre, located on West Forty-second Street, between the Seventh and Eighth Avenues, New York, we have, first of all, a most beautiful and commodious place of amusement; also, from the constructional standpoint a notable example of the efforts that are being made nowadays, by those who aspire to eminence as architects and designers, to depart from the traditional—we had almost said the commonplace—in style. In our modern buildings, regardless, of their purpose, we are so accustomed to find a more or less servile adherence to the old systems, that their chief features, with such unimportant variations as occur casually to those entrusted with their planning and erection, have become impressed upon us, and any radical attempt to depart from conventionalities at once arouses critical attention. The New Amsterdam Theatre owes the interest it has excited, on the part, not only of the theatre-going public, but of competent critics, to this evident determination on the part of its designers to depart from the beaten track, and for this reason, the accompanying illustrations and brief description of some of its unique features, will doubtless interest our readers. We must, however, preface our remarks with the admission that the cold black and white of print, although enabling us to depict, with the assistance of the photographic art, the diginity and beauty of form so much admired in this addition to the city's playhouses, with some fidelity, can give no idea of the artistic delicacy and successful boldness of the color scheme, which at once attracts and entrances the visitor. The designers have undertaken, in addition to a display of vigor and grace of form, to give practical expression to their originality of idea and execution; and the effect, while kaleidoscopic in the diversity and richness of its contrasts, will not only withstand analysis as to detail, but as a whole it presents a harmonious and grateful color scheme that can not fail to impress itself on the visitor as distinctly a factor in the preeminence of this, as in the truest sense of the term, a place of recreation. Mere gorgeousness in itself brings neither pleasure nor satisfaction to the cultured mind, but here we have the restfulness of change in the harmonious combination of color, form and general design, in which flowers, fruits and animal types have been skilfully combined, that does not meet the eye in the every-day walks of life and which the true artist in decoration learns to turn to account; in these respects the New Amsterdam Theatre can not fail to impress its patrons. There is moreover a harmony between the structural and decorative

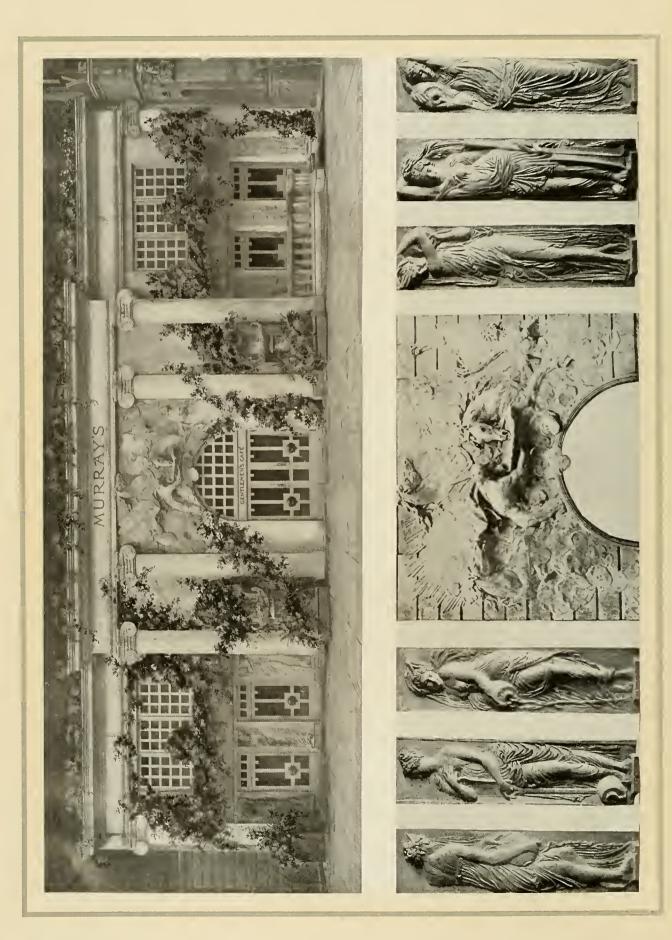


effects, attainable only, where, as in the case of this theatre, the same master minds have controlled every detail of the work. Such has indeed been the case with this building, so that construction, arrangement, relief ornaments, metal work, color effects, furnishings, draperies, etc., all bear the unmistakeable impress of the genius that has created the harmonious whole. The limited frontage of the theatre, on Forty-second Street, has been made the most of by the architects, Messrs. Herts & Tallant, in designing the facade, which, without any overcrowding of the restricted space, conveys at once the idea of a structure of more than ordinary elegance and overcomes the awkwardness of appearance inseparable as a rule from buildings located on such sites. The absence of the conventional cornice, with its top-heavy, overhanging effect on such tower-like edifices, and the substitution for it of an ornate roof-line, on which the arms of the city of New Amsterdam conspicuously figure, lends originality to the exterior of the edifice without impairing its dignity. The efforts at elaboration have been wisely confined to that portion of the structure that is within range of the pedestrian's vision and are, however, calculated to enhance, where they do not actually impart the effect of solidity. In the entrance, the decorative ability of the designers, Messrs. Herts & Tallant has found full scope. The relief panels in the foyer, depicting scenes from familiar dramatic stories and life in the New Amsterdam of our forefathers, have been vigorously and artistically treated, more especially the "progress" panel, over the doorway to the auditorium, of which Mr. St. John Issing was sculptor, displaying notable merit. Not for a moment, however, has the useful side of the situation been lost sight of, the foyer, staircases and corridors are roomy, direct and unobstructed, as well as profusely ornamented. In the auditorium, the individuality of taste Messrs. Herts & Tallant have displayed, has found full sway and color, relief work, metal work, furnishings, lighting and upholstering, have each been made subordinate to the general purpose in the production of a tout ensemble of exceptional richness and beauty. The proscenium arch at once compels attention, owing to its freedom from the columns and entablatures that ordinarily encumber the view of the stage from the boxes and the sides of the house. The disposition of the boxes, with their balconies en corbeille is both picturesque and unique, besides being contributary to the improvement of the point of view of the occupants. The superb decorative picture, over the proscenium arch, by Messrs. Blum & Wenzell, and the panels above the boxes, of which we present illustrations, are visible from all parts of the house and allegorically interesting, accord admirably in their originality of motif and beautiful execution, with the surrounding details and serve to set them off in place of detracting from them. The New Amsterdam Theatre is moreover unique as regards the comfort and thoughtfully and ingeniously planned accommodations it provides for its patrons. The ladies' bouldoir is certain to elicit the admiration and approbation of the gentler sex, the main feature of its decoration, beautifully worked out, being the tea-rose, while the arrangements offer something altogether surpassing in elegance and convenience the ordinary retiring room. For gentlemen there is a roomy, well-ventilated and readily accessible smoking room, furnished in comfort and elegance, the decorations in allegorical and figure subjects, being notably artistic and interesting. The arrangements for the lighting, heating and ventilation of this most elegant of New York's playhouses, are on a par with its ornamentation, the lighting devices especially being skilfully designed and distributed so as to reveal and enhance the beauty of the artistic color and relief work. Notably handsome and effective are the great pendant lanterns, in foyer and corridors, with their unique color effects. Nor have provisions for the safety of the audiences been overlooked. The building is in every modern respect fire-proof, while ample exits provide safe and easy means of egress in case of emergency.

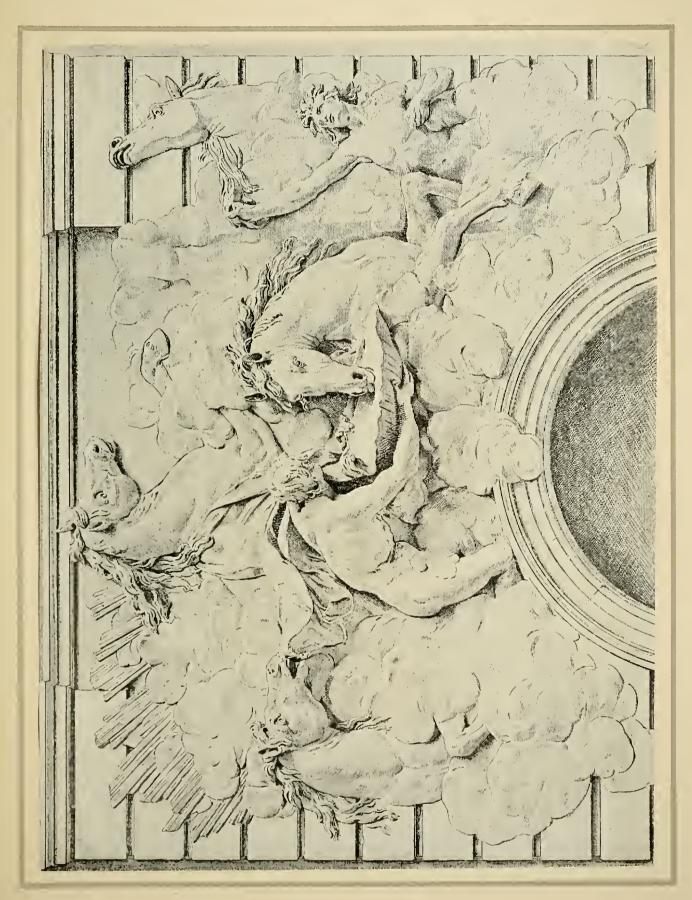


Murray's Forty secon Street and Broadway, New Yor and Designed by Henr Erkins.

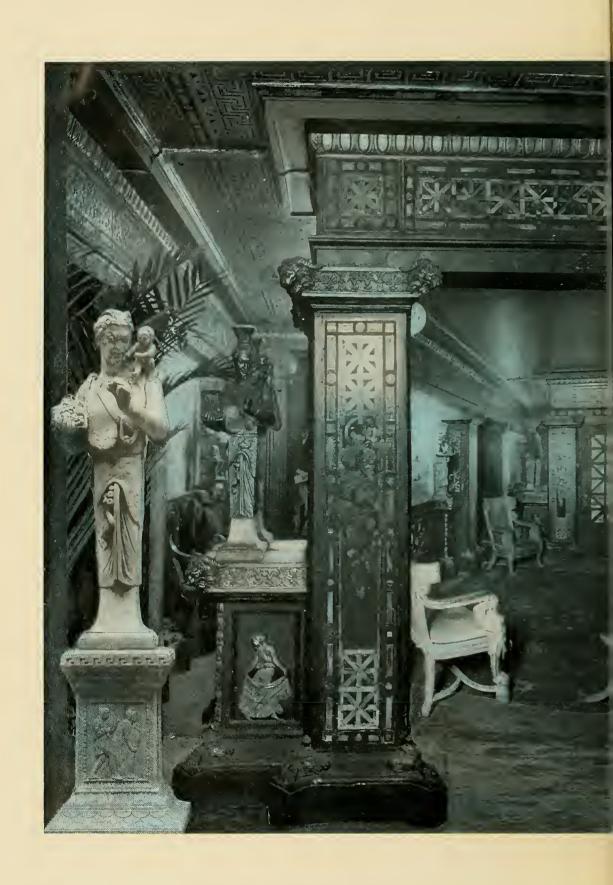




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Les Chevaux du Soleil by Robert Le Lorrain



Lad es Receptio Room, Mur sys Roman Gardens



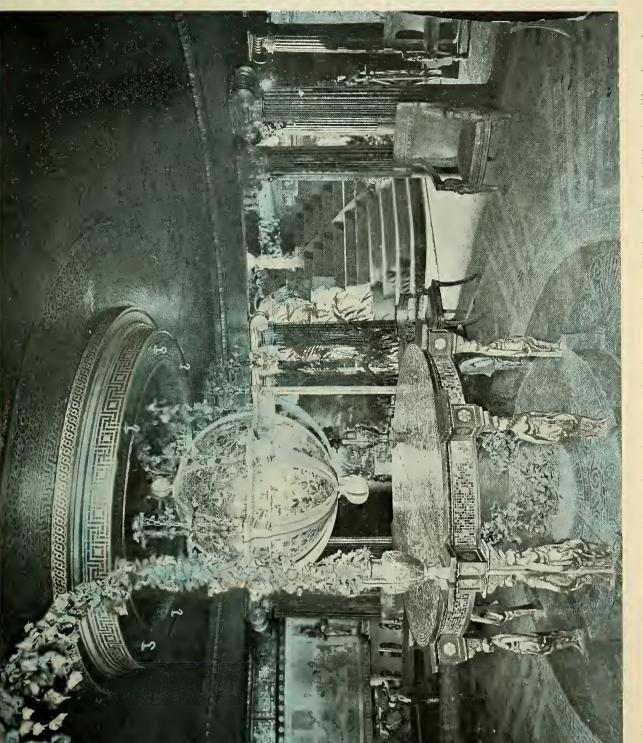


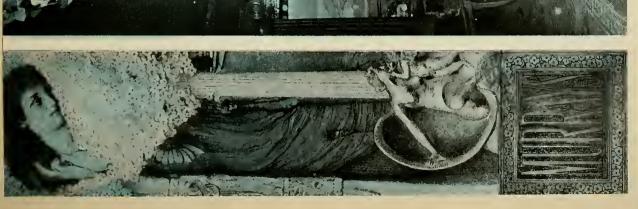


Ladies' Reception Room, Murray's Roman Gardens.







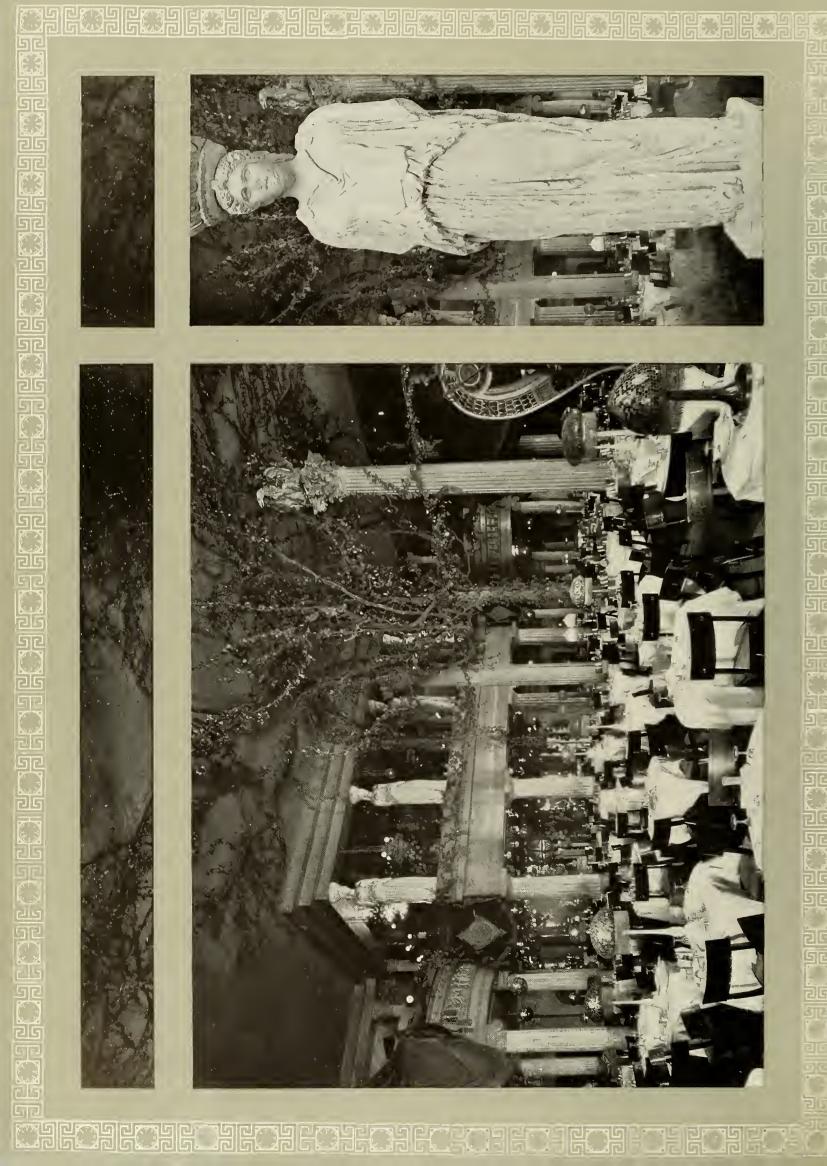


stantial whole.

O Y E R



N our preceding brief description of the theatre we have endeavored to depict a place of amusement embodying the most advanced ideas in refined, latter-day art, or rather the latest evolution of the art of past ages, as applied to the creation of a veritable modern place of recre-But while New York can offer so beautiful an example of modern or modernized art, it is also possible, within the limits of this youngest of the world's metropoli, to become familiar with the beauties of ancient art in their original form and our next recital will describe the realistic reproduction. largely from the originals in the form of direct copies, casts, etc., of the decorative features of the homes of one of the most lavishly luxurious of the world's ancient peoples—the Romans of the Cæsarean period as adapted to the embellishment of a modern place of entertainment, the reconstruction, from original models and authentic records, of the artistic splendor and ornate surroundings of a Roman residence, at the period of the Imperial city's greatest opulence and magnificence, all for the pleasure and delectation of the people of the one city in the new world, where such luxury and elegance are likely to find appreciation. To realize, by actual observation, the sumptuous elegance with which, in the palmiest days of their wealth and power, the opulent Romans of old and their precursors and cotemporaries in Egypt and Assyria surrounded themselves, it is not necessary for the New Yorker to visit the exhumed ruins of Pompeii, the excavations made on the sites of ancient Nineveh or Babylon, or the palm-fringed banks of old Nile. At his very doors, in the center of the city's theatre and hotel section, within a stone's throw of the theatre above described and within earshot of the shriek of the noisy iron horse, he can be transported as though on the famous carpet of Mahomet, back into ancient Rome and can feast his eyes on an artistic and authentically exact reproduction of the most beautiful features of Rome's most ornate homes, of the palaces, villas and pleasure resorts of her wealthiest and most cultured citizens, such as Bulwer Lytton so entrancingly describes in his descriptions of Rome and Pompeii. The Roman Garden of Murray's, 228 to 232 West Forty-second Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, brings back to us the conditions and surroundings that made the name of ancient Rome synonomous with artistic taste and unrivaled elegance, the storehouse for all that was precious and beautiful in the world that the Romans of old, knew, conquered and plundered. The fact that all the ingenuity of plan, the wealth of artistic elaboration, and the profusion of gorgeous ornamentation, revealed in this unique establishment, has really been "grafted" as it were, on to a building of essentially plain and formal character, planned and erected originally for a purpose absolutely foreign to that for which it is today utilized, lends additional interest to the results achieved and reflects the greater credit on the author and originator of this superb exemplification of modern taste and skill. Henry Erkins, who was constrained to adopt, as the basis for this beautiful production, a building originally planned for use as a schoolhouse, but which the magic wand of Mr. Erkins' genius has transformed so happily that in its present arrangement, equipment, adornment and ornamentation, it nowhere betrays the slightest trace of its original purpose in any way.





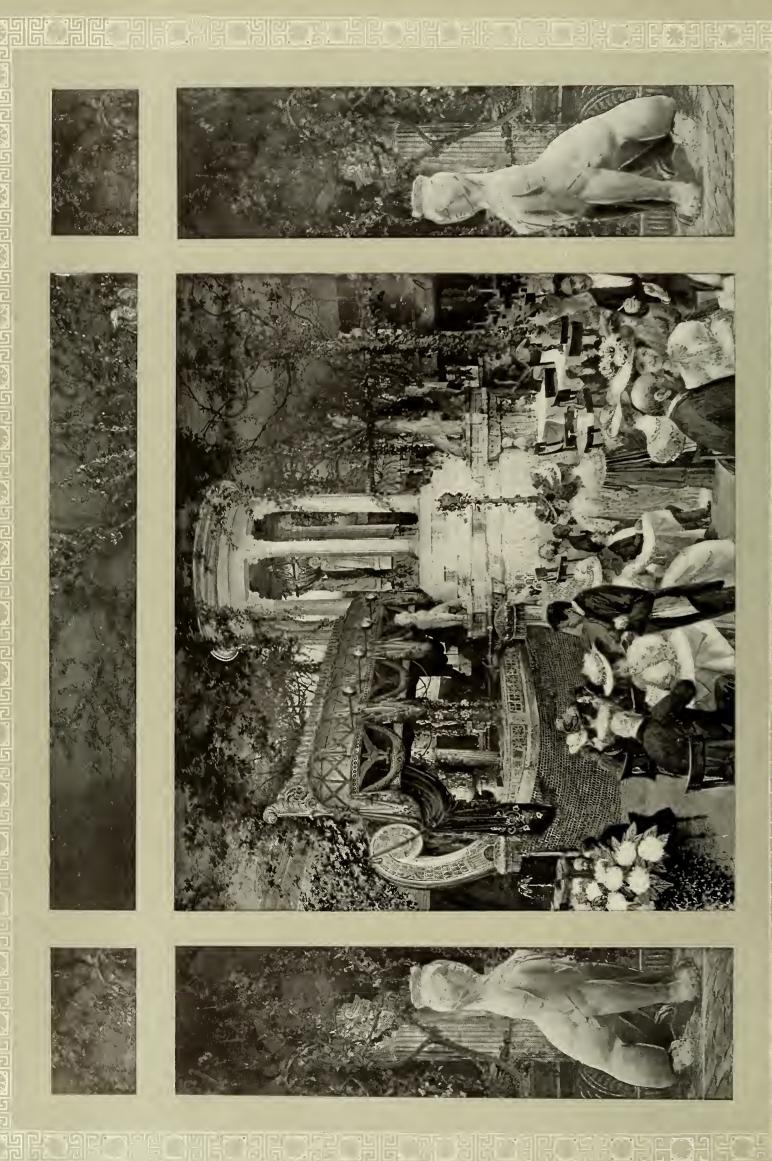










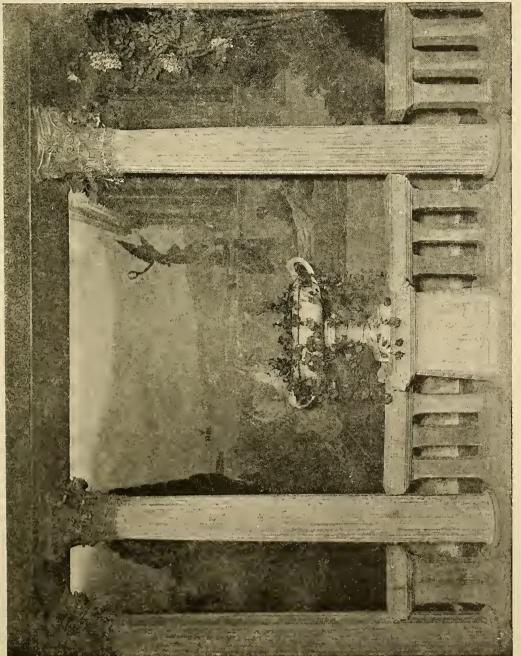




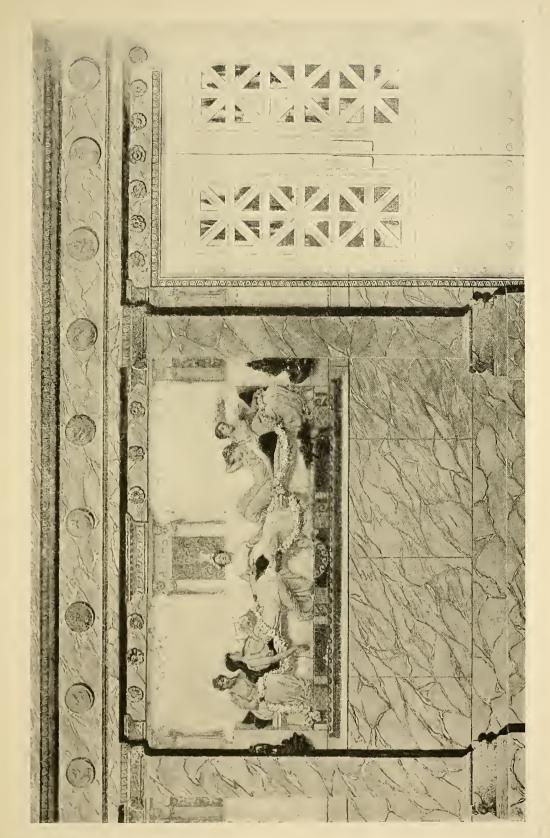












The manner After Reynolds Stephens.









CHLA feeti ea these decorations are, their beauty is enhanced when their brilliance is ontra ted with the somewhat sobre colors in which the fashionable world of today election a ray itself. The scene at an afternoon Reception, after the theatre, so admirably deficed in our illustration, affords but a faint conception of the life and brilliance to the lone so much to make Murray's a favorite resort of the "upper ten" in New York. When it is remembered that with these elegant surroundings, is bind all the facilities and resources of a lavishly provided New York restaurant the popularity this famous resort has attained, almost at a bound, is hardly surprising





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Murray's Gardens

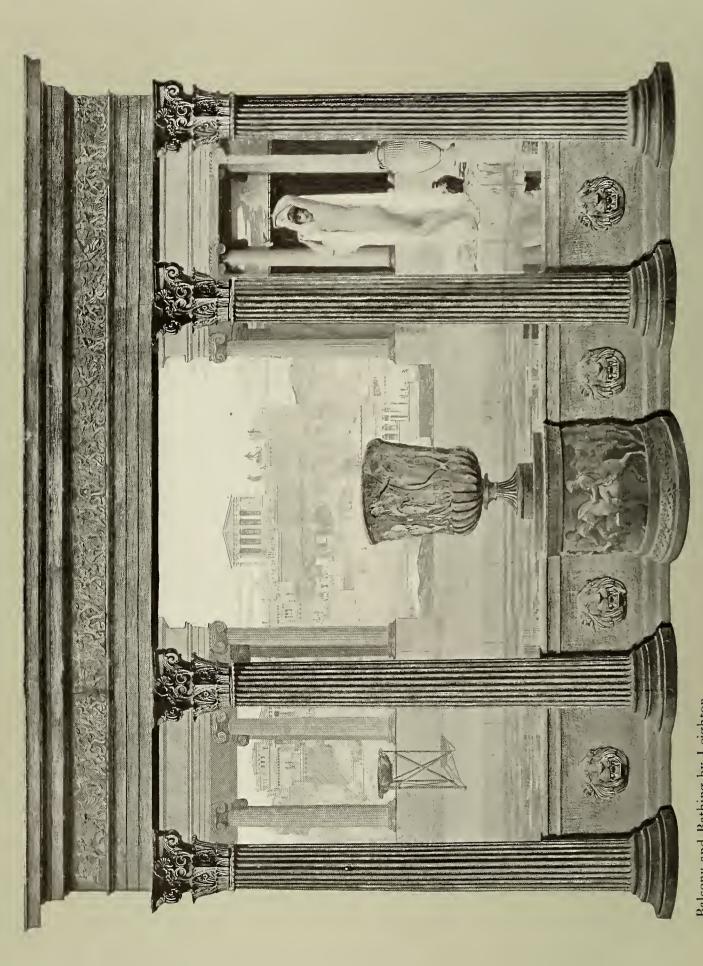






OTHING more realistically artistic and beautiful is to be found, among so much that is ornate and admirable, than this picture, with its background recalling such a vista of the Bay of Naples as many of the luxurious Pompeian villas of the wealthy Romans doubtless commanded. The soft haze, through which the distant landscape and the classic figures in the foreground are visible, is truly characteristic of the languorous Italian climate and has been reproduced by the artist with surpassing fidelity to nature, enhanced by the surroundings and the effective means of illumination. This is indeed one of the most striking of the pictures in which the artist has endeavored to convey the idea of a view of the adjacent landscape from an open colonnade or balcony.

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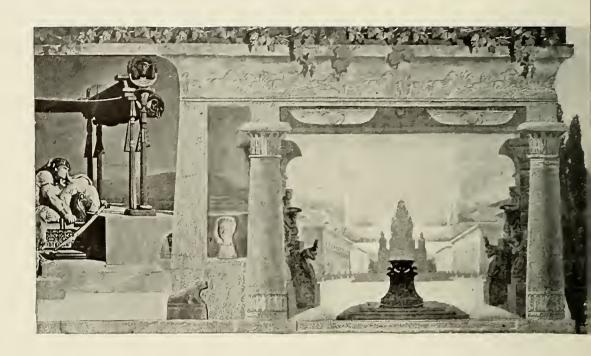
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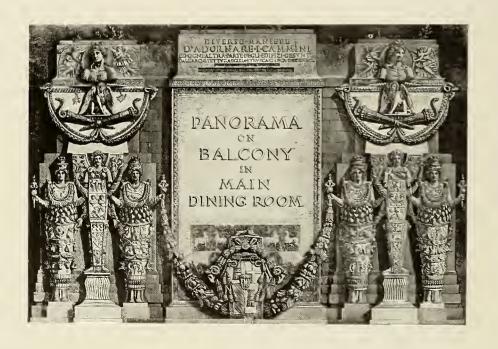
Balcony and Bathing by Leighton





PHRODITE, the Greek goddess of beauty and pleasure, worshipped by the Romans under the name of Venus, is fittingly enshrined among the decorations of Murray's Roman Gardens and in view of her reputed origin, is aptly portrayed in connection with a distant glimpse of a Roman bath. The exquisite scenery and daintily executed figures in this fresco, make the panel conspicuous among so much that is beautiful.





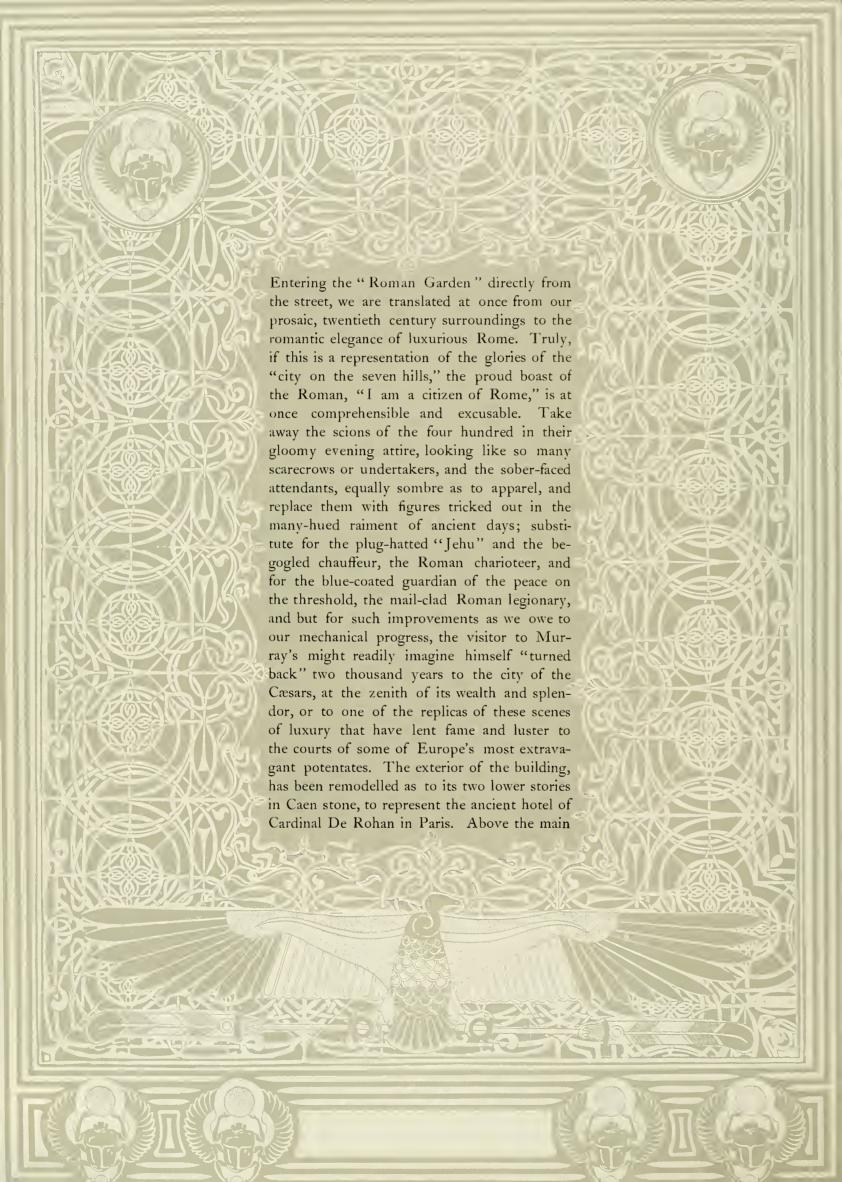


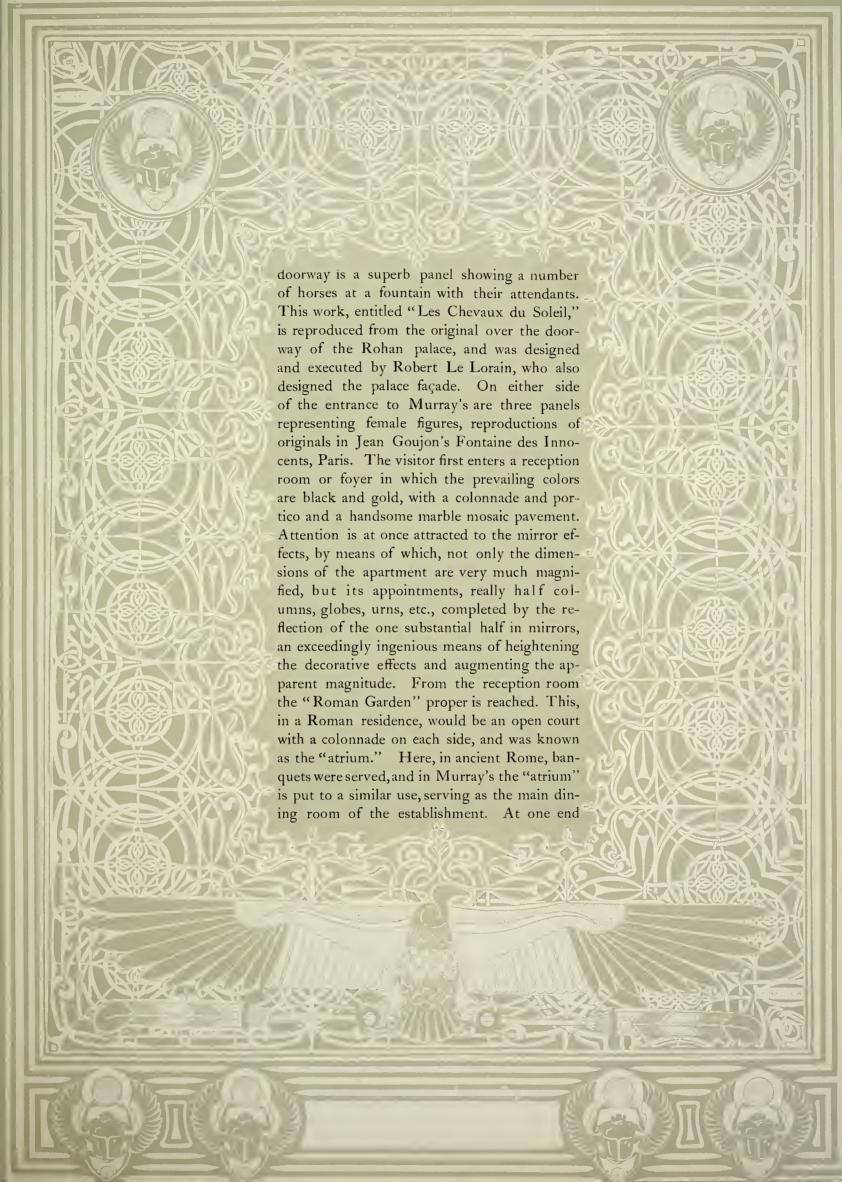




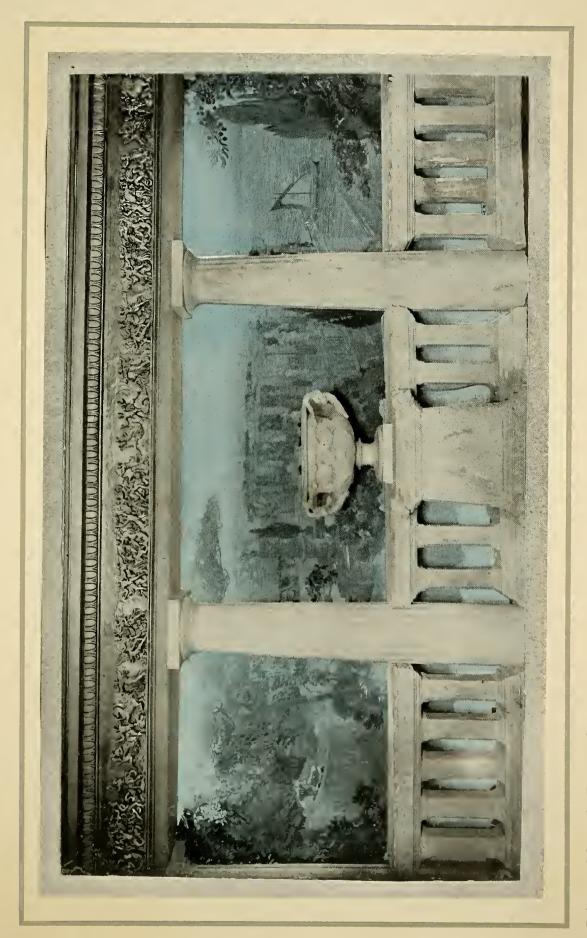






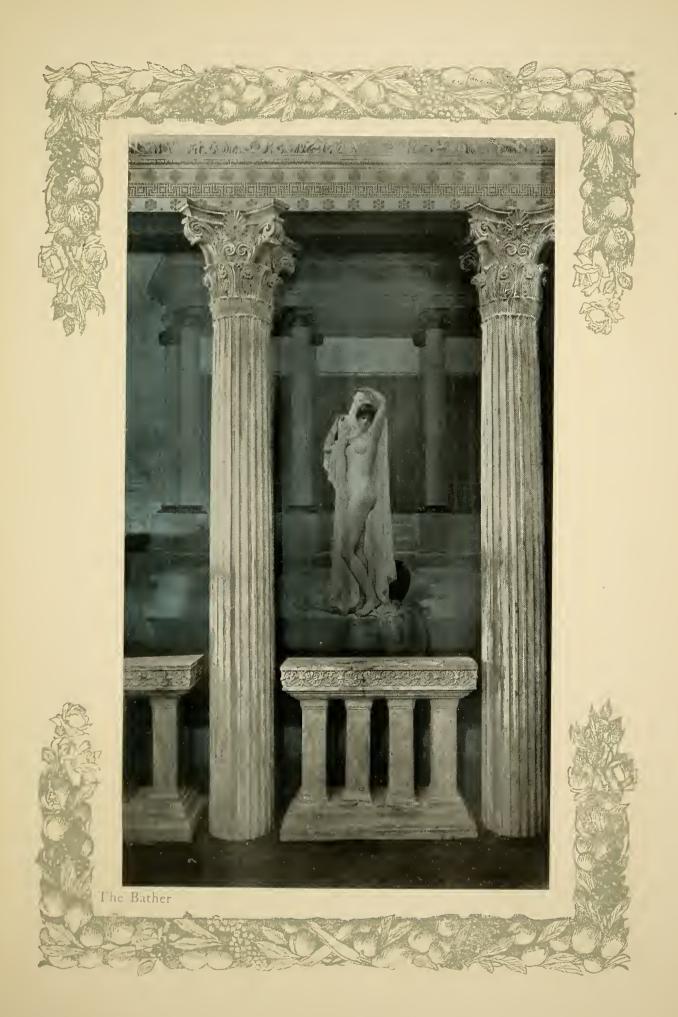


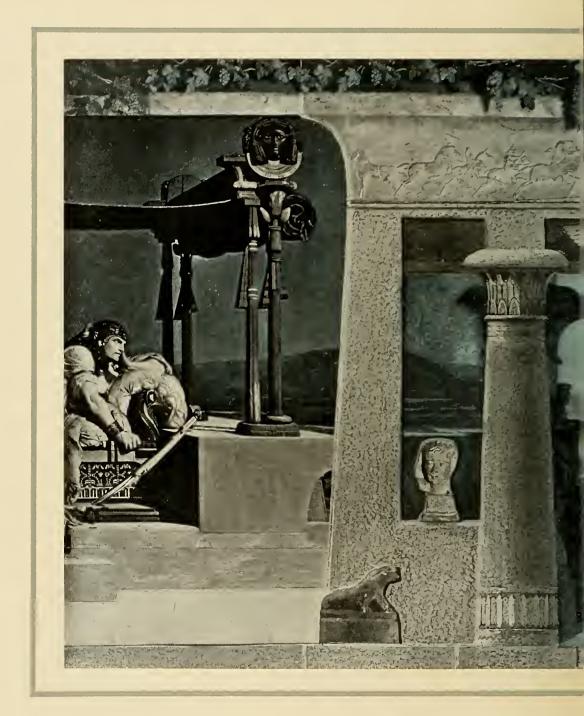




Balcony, Murray's Roman Garden.

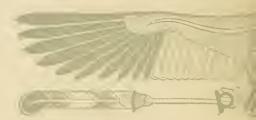








Panorama







on Balcony





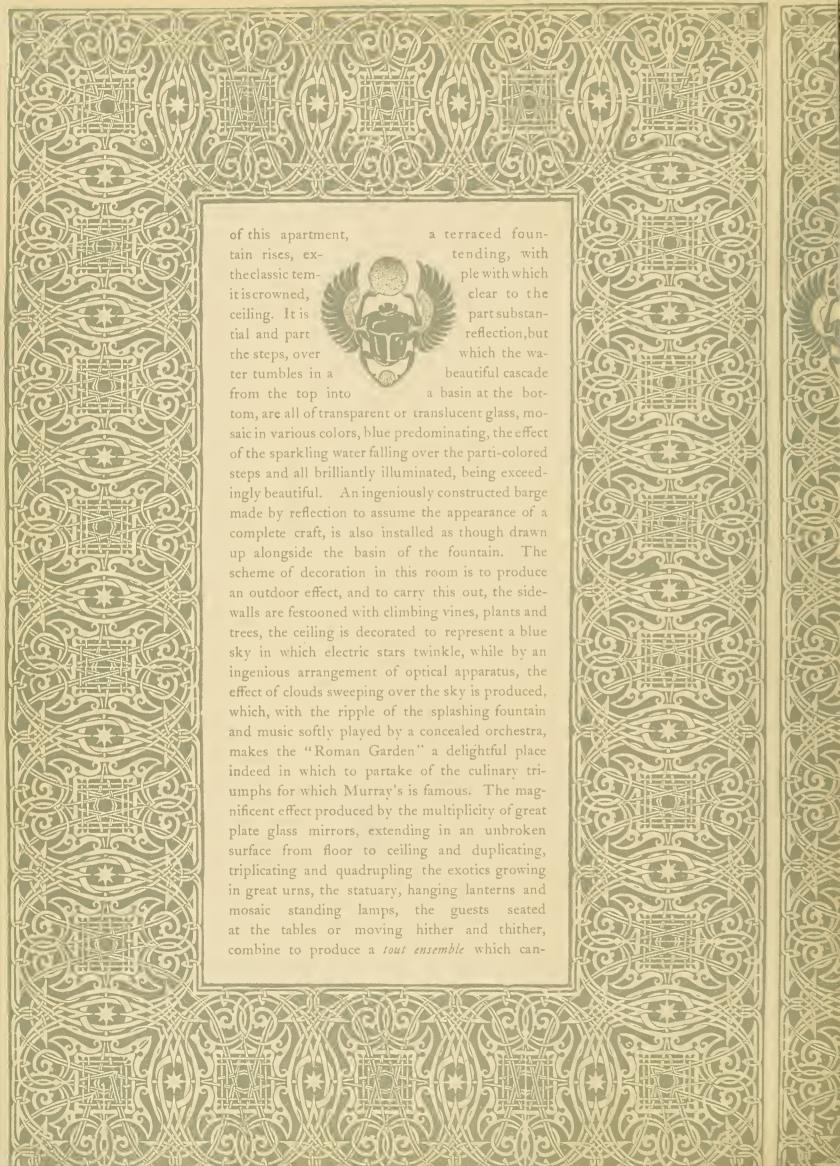


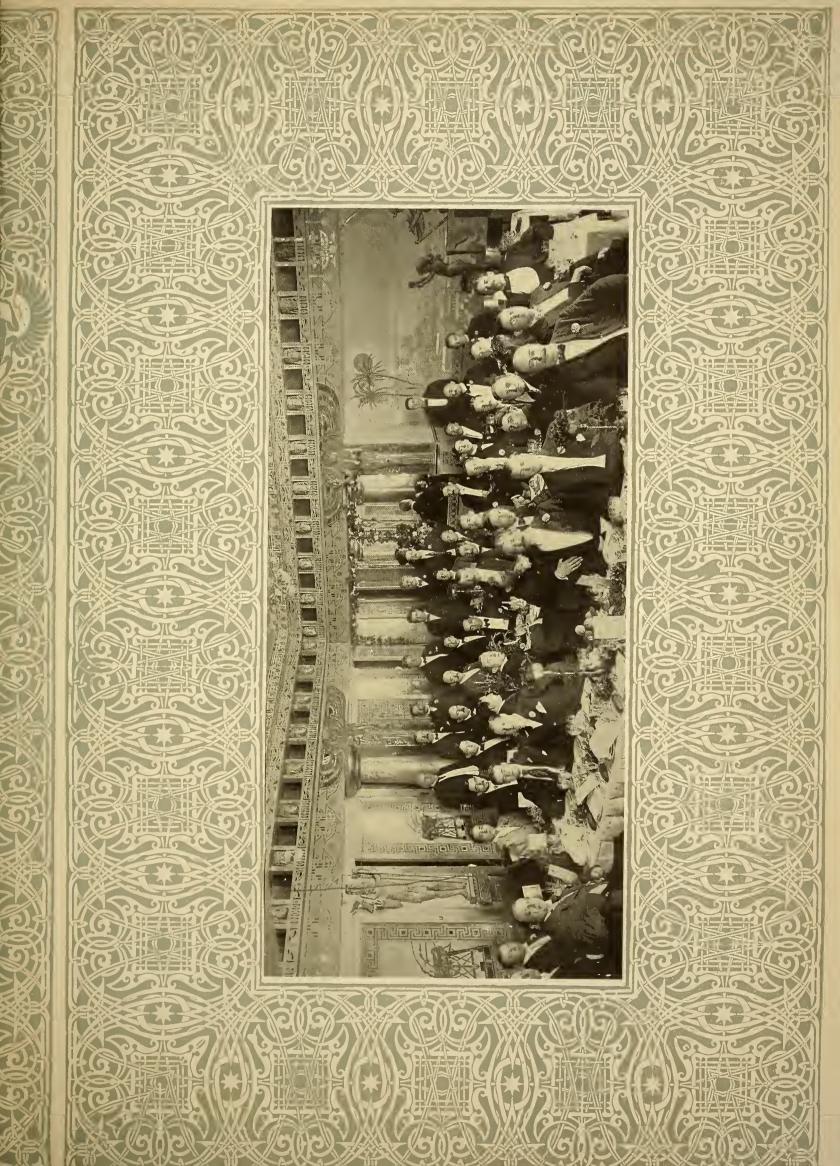












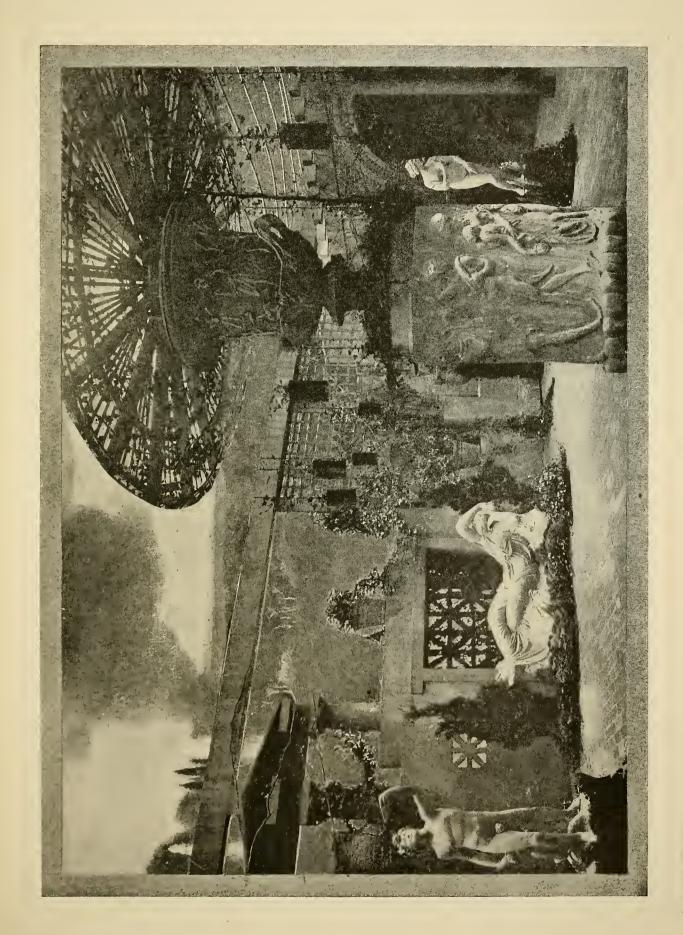




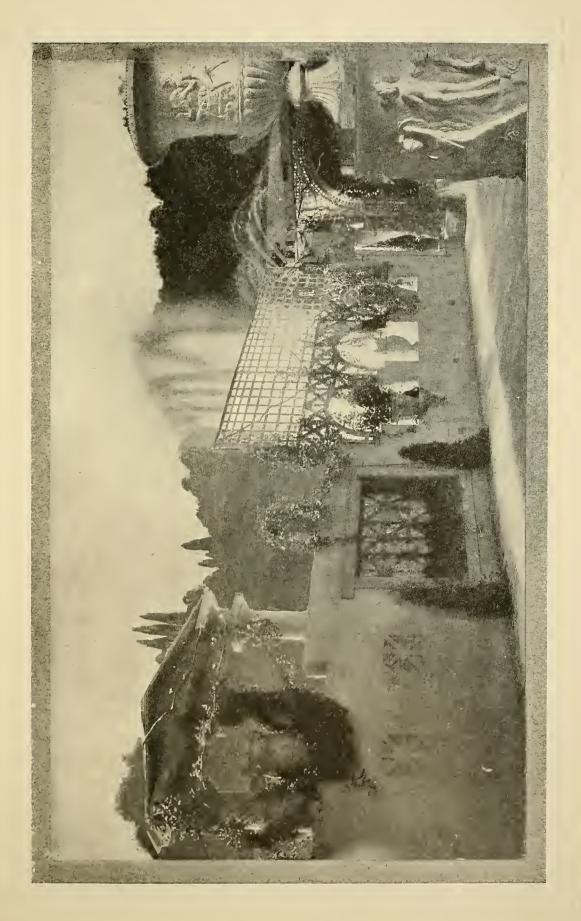




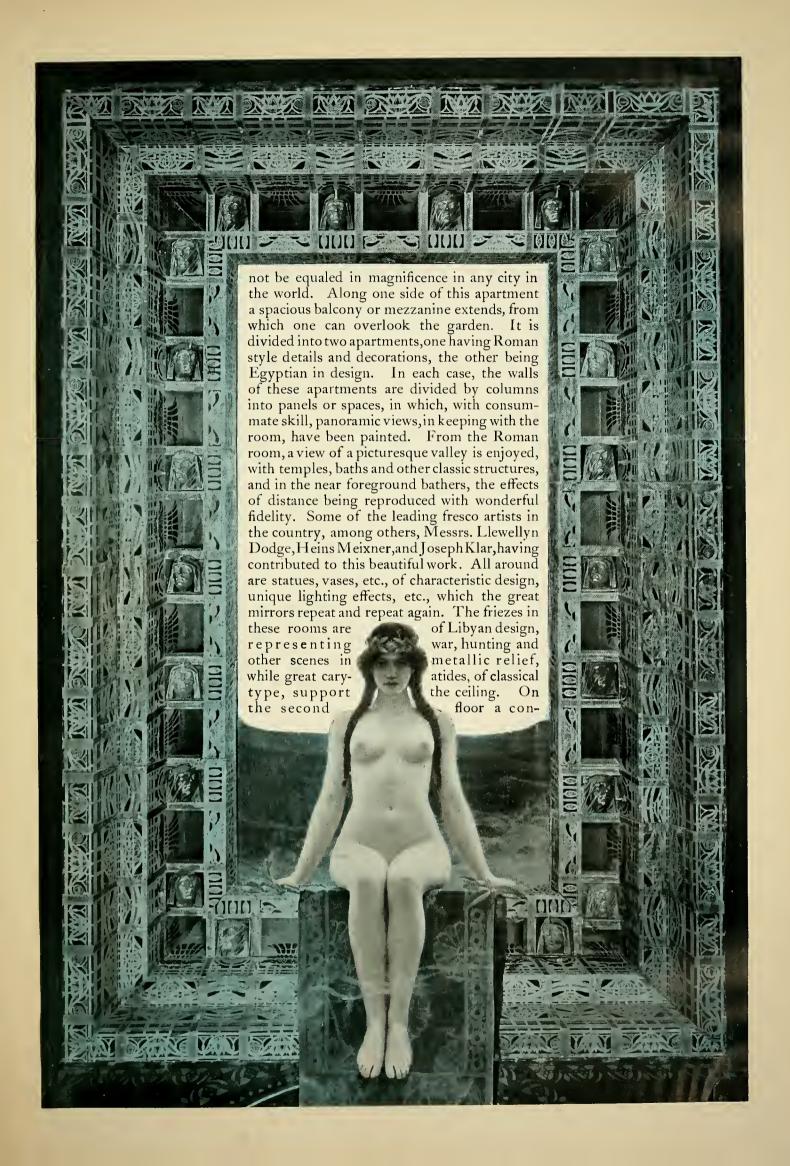




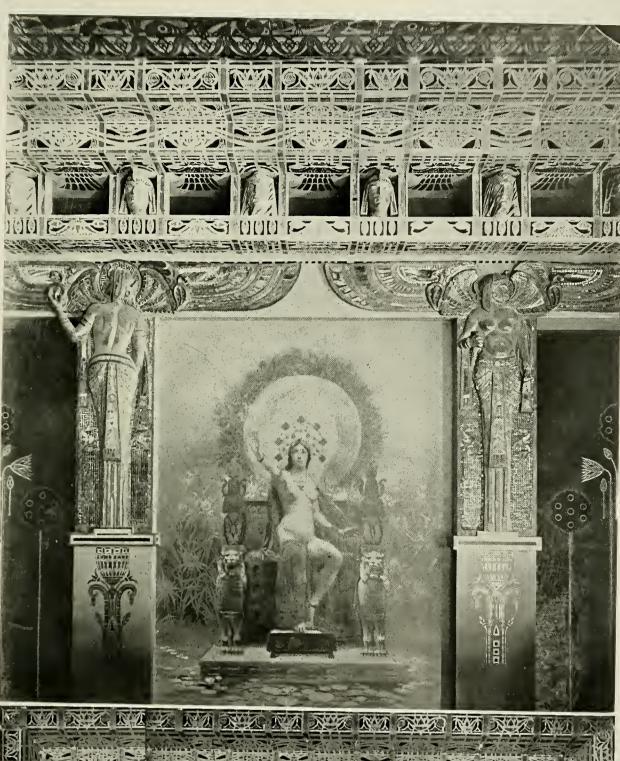




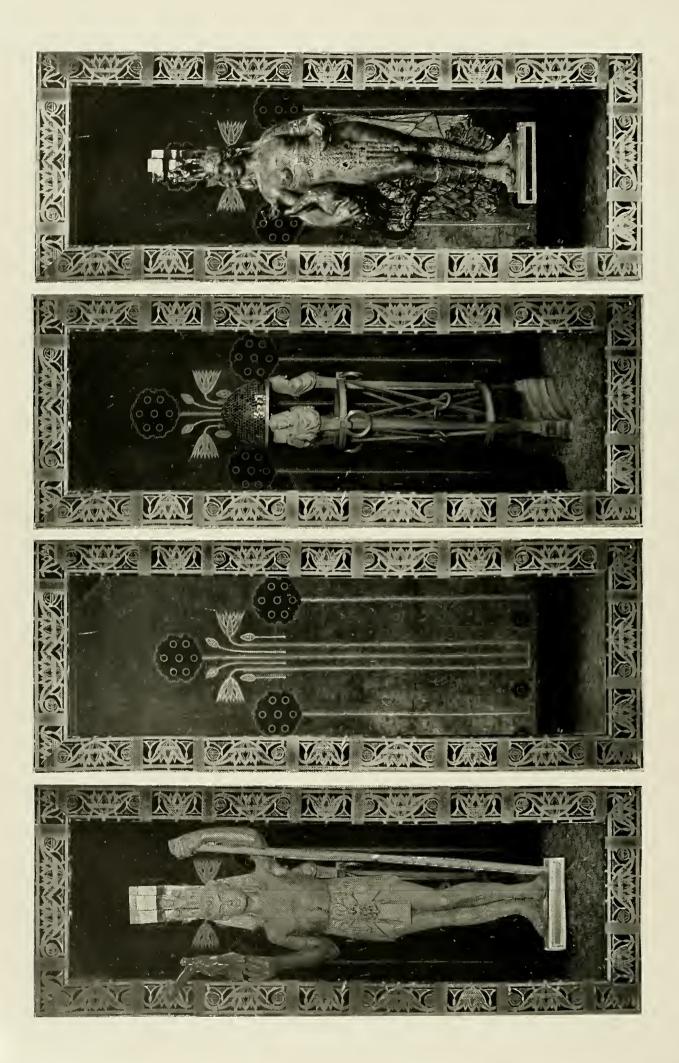




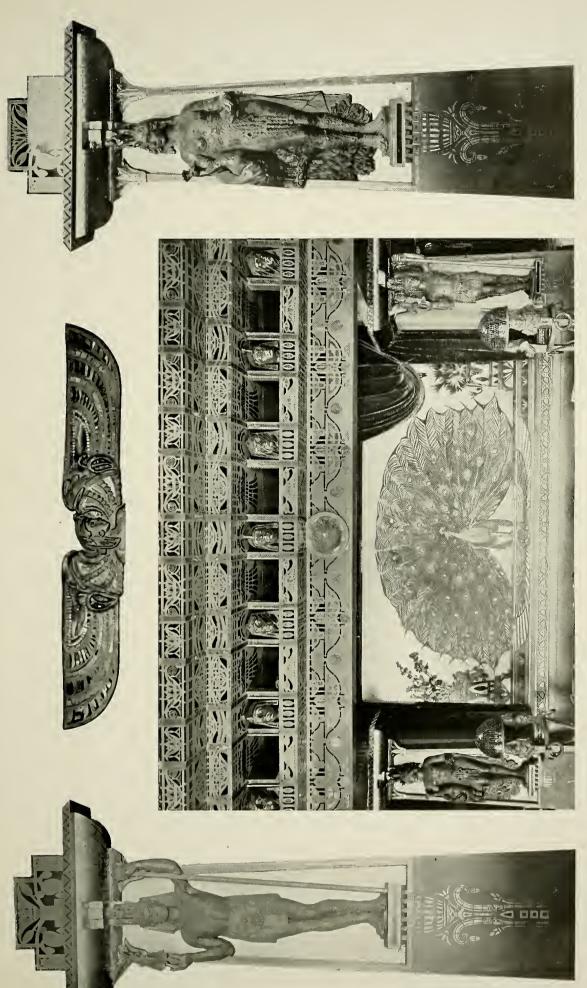


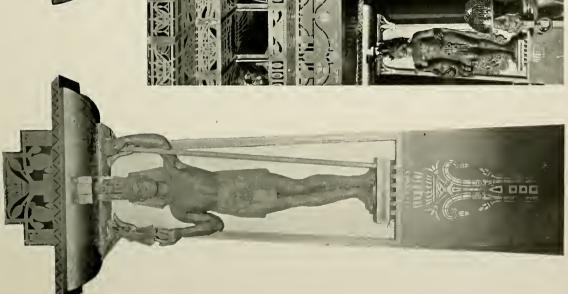


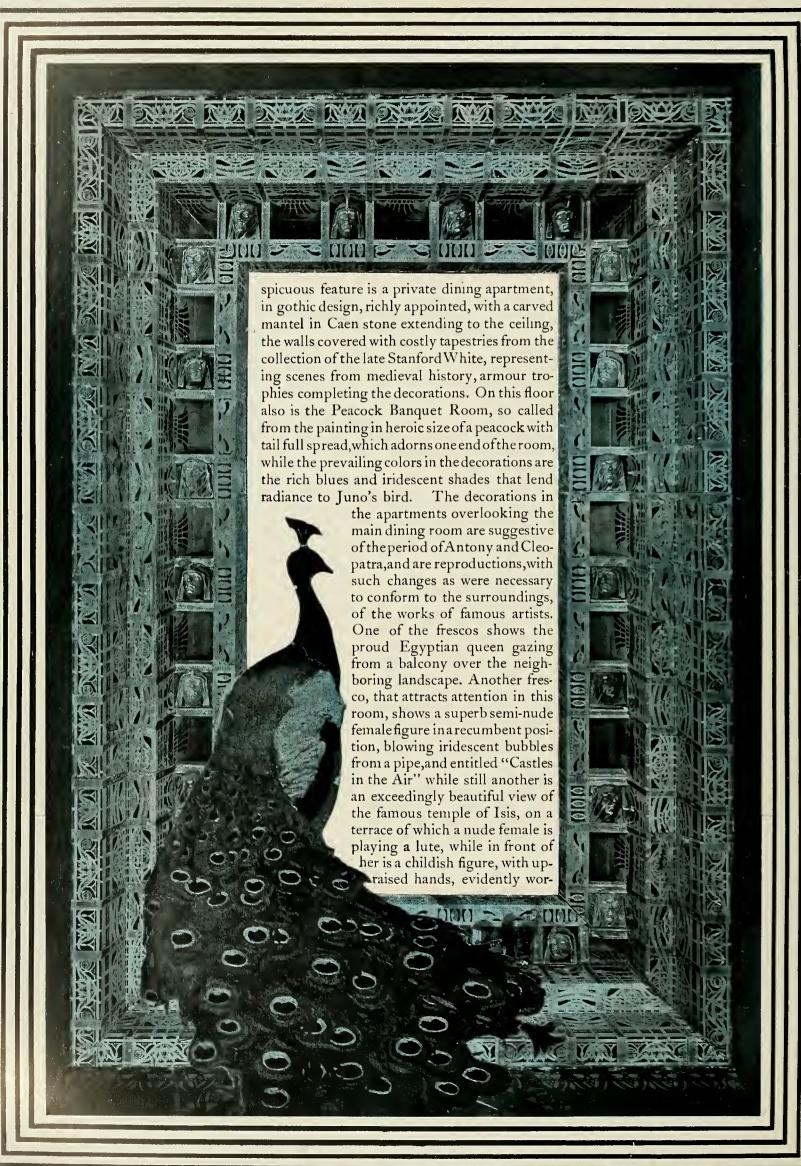




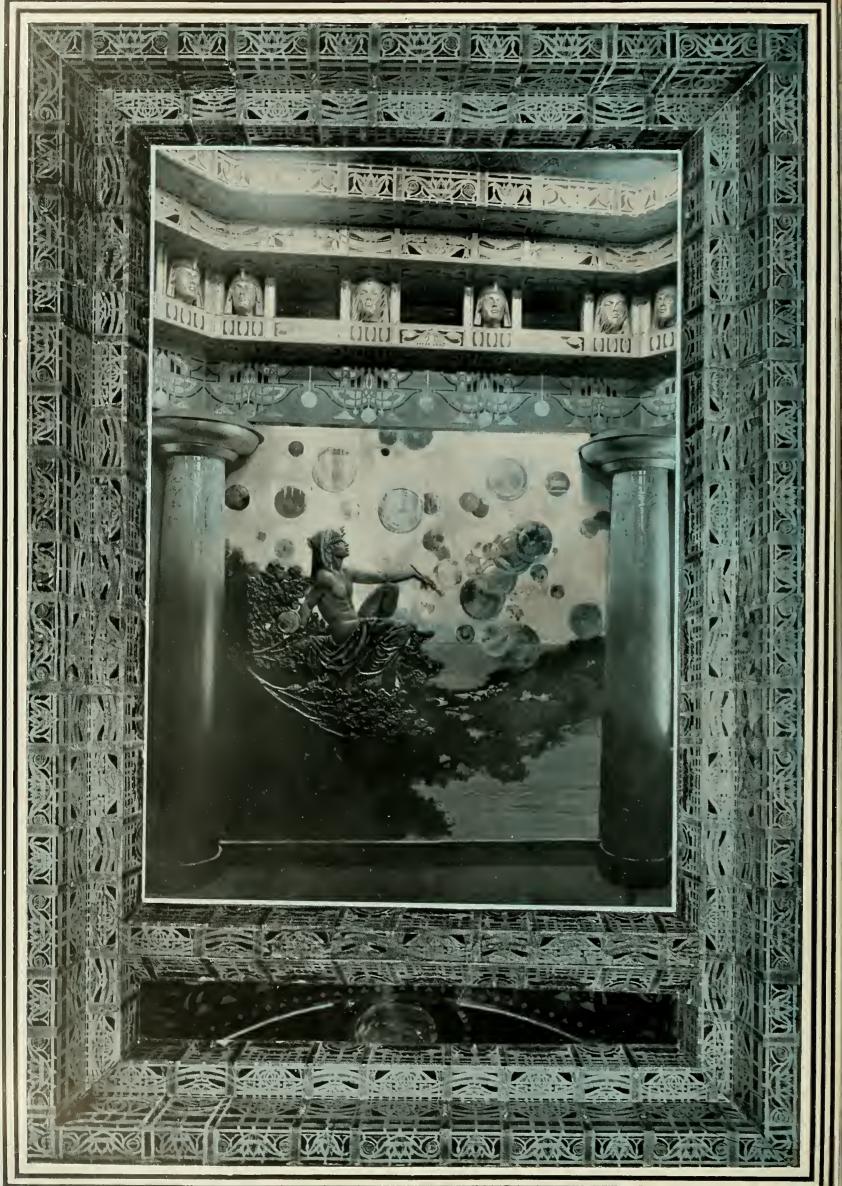


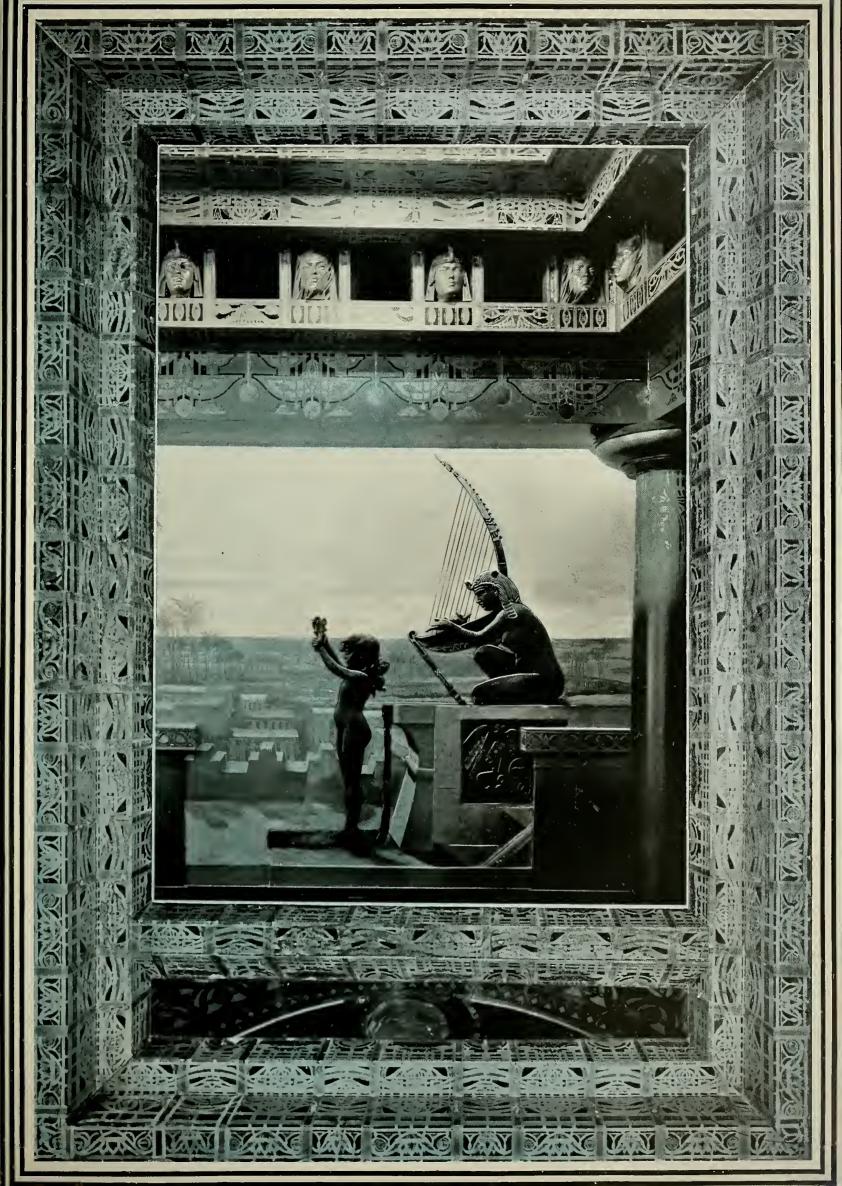


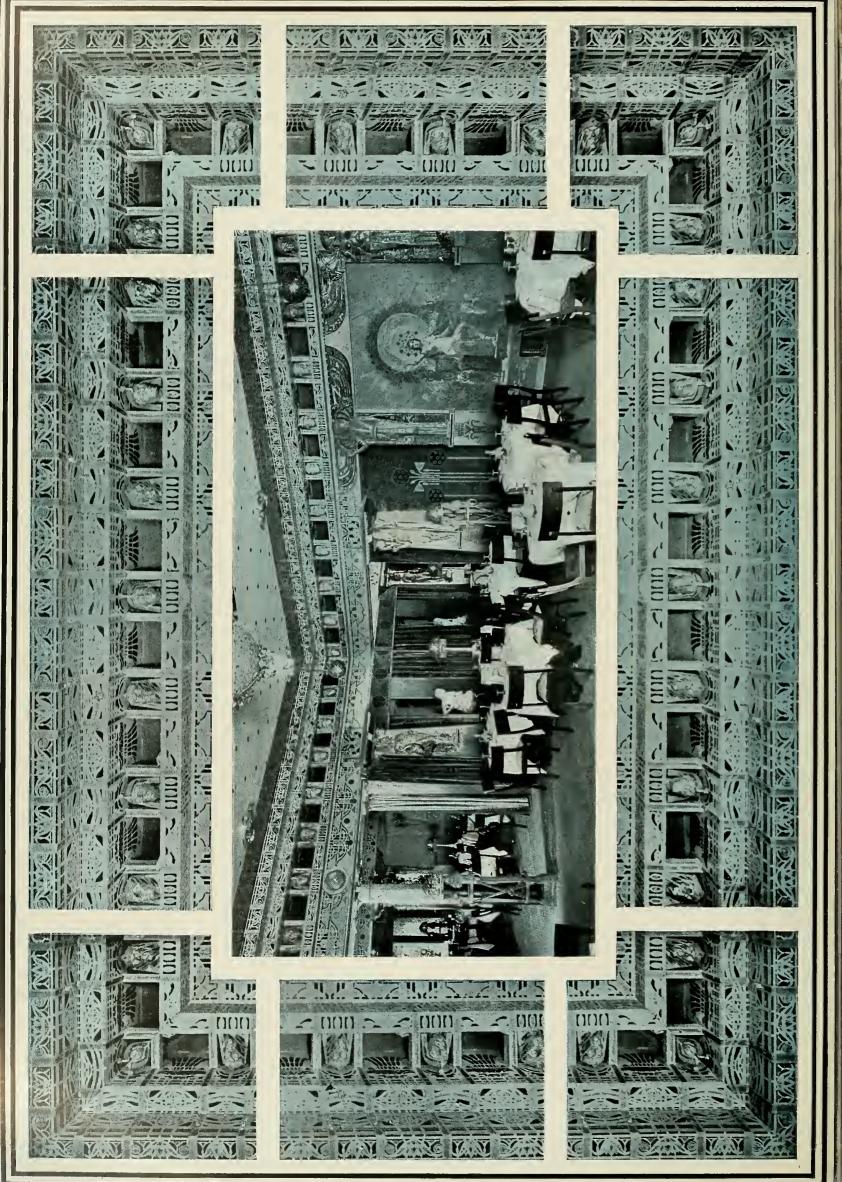


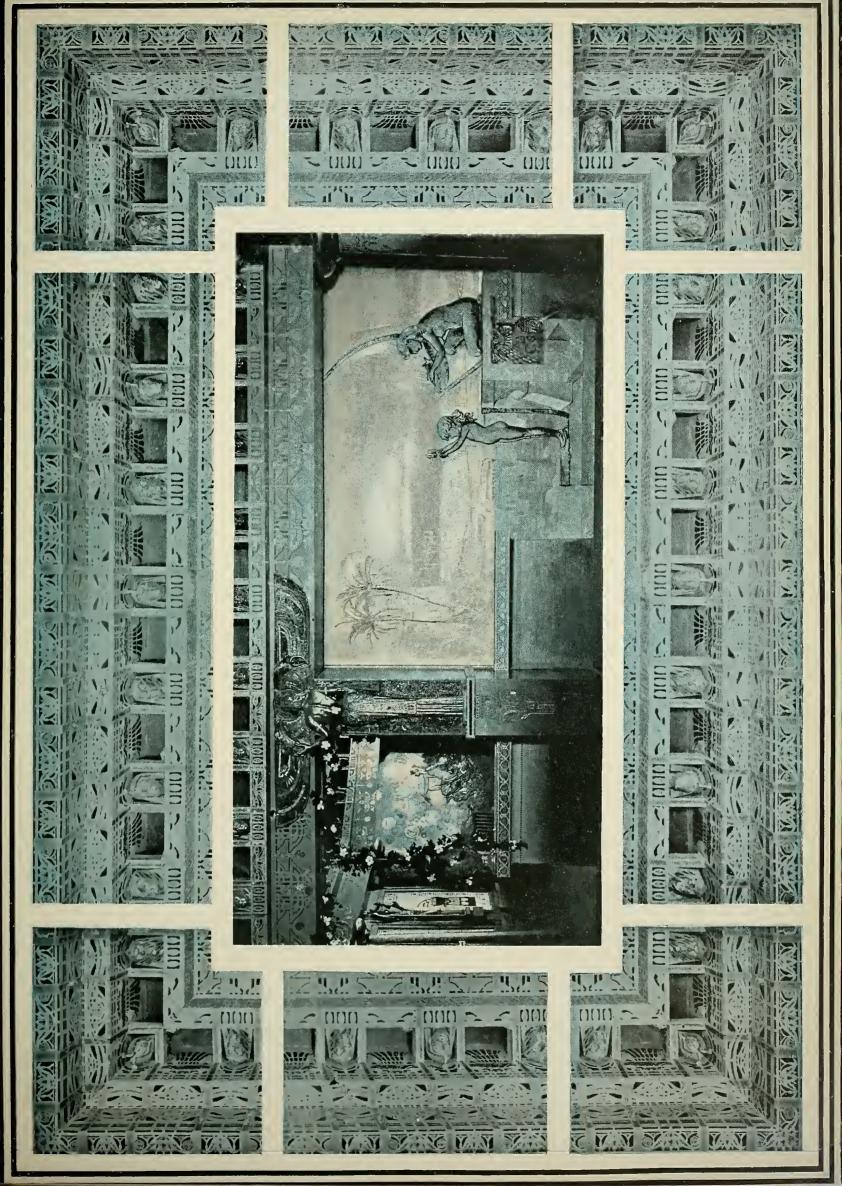


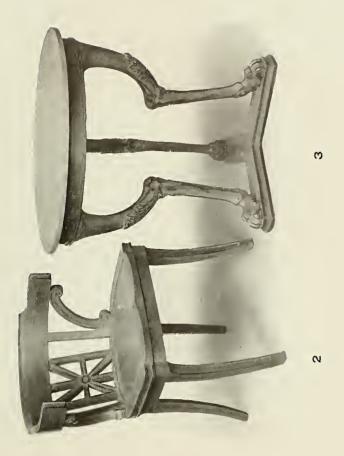


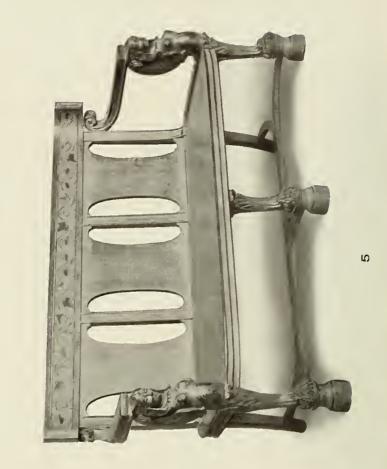


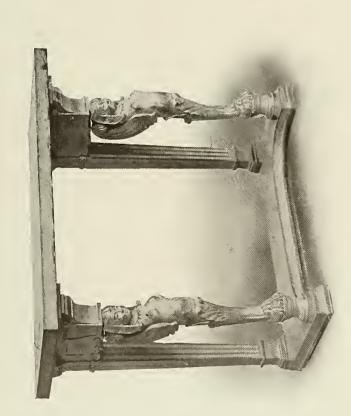






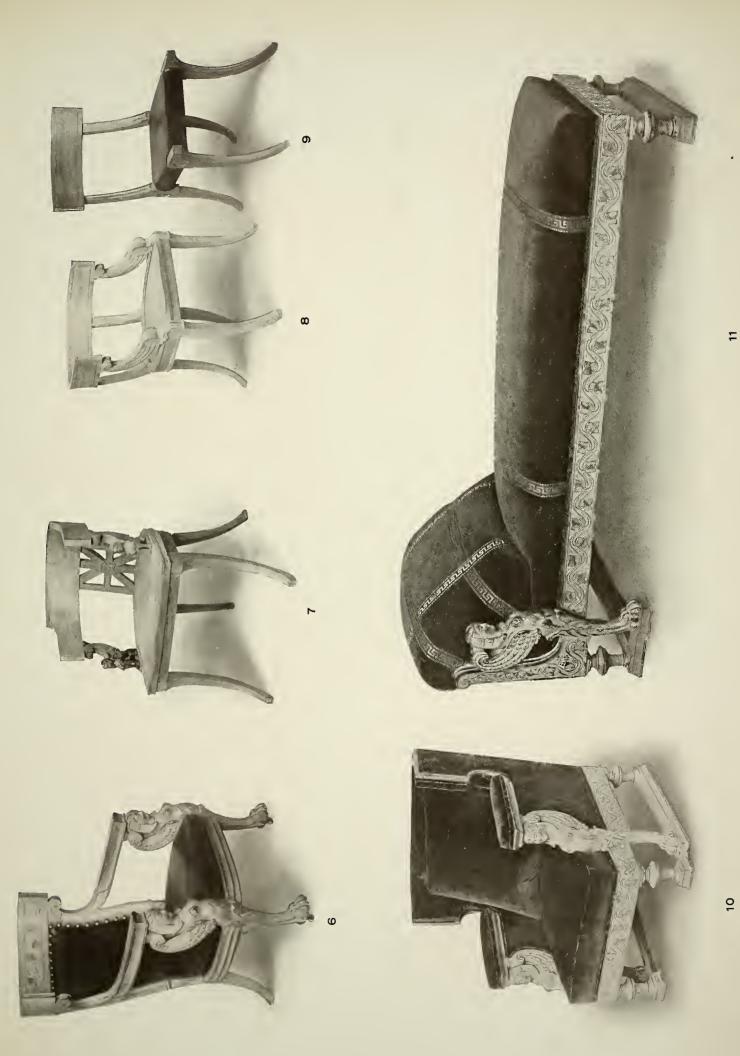




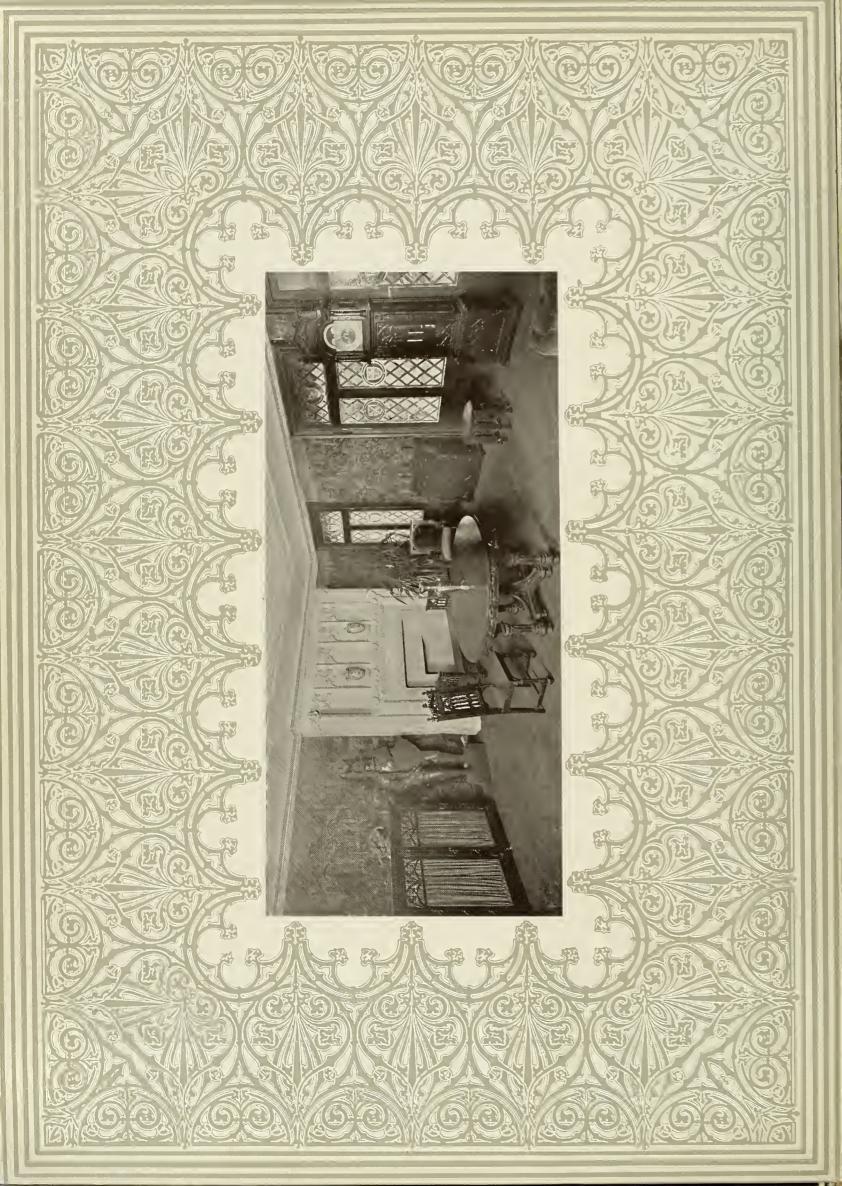


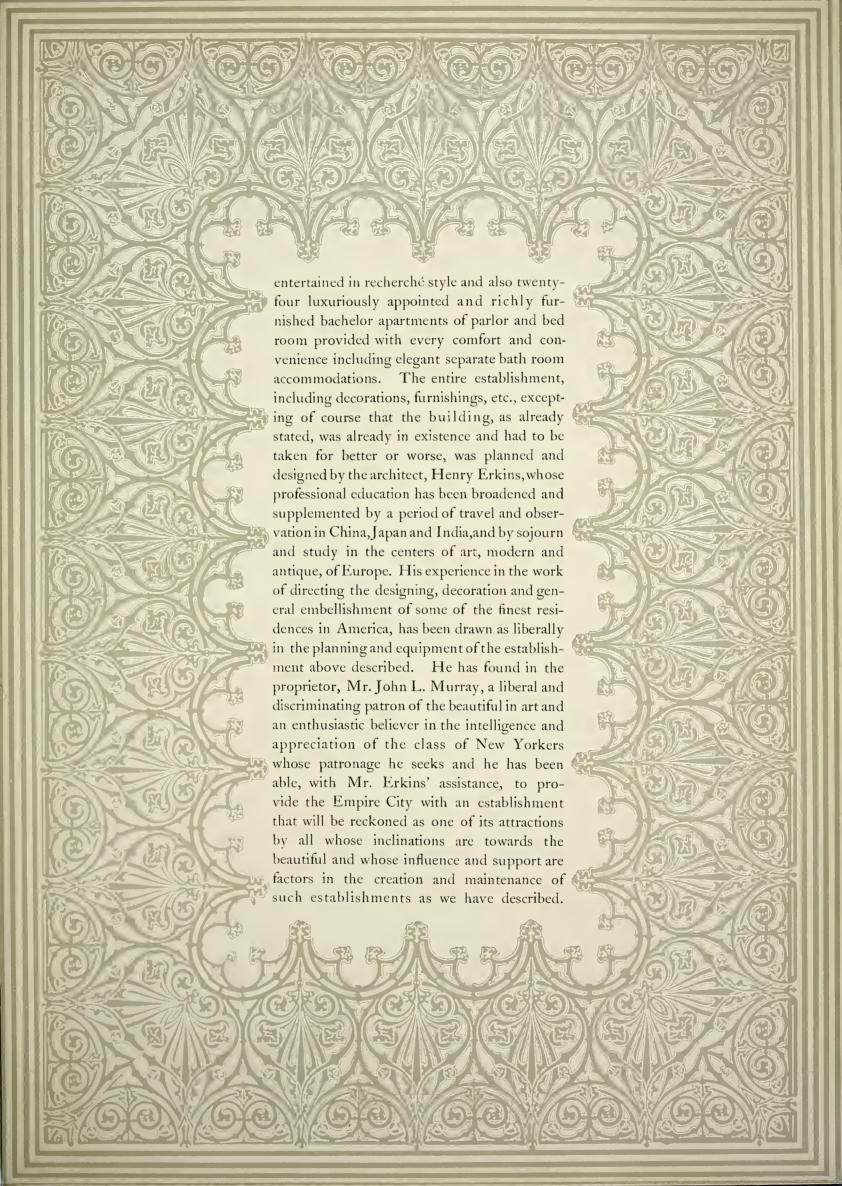


Pompeian Furniture Reception Room, Murray's



Pompeian Furniture. Reception Room, Murray's







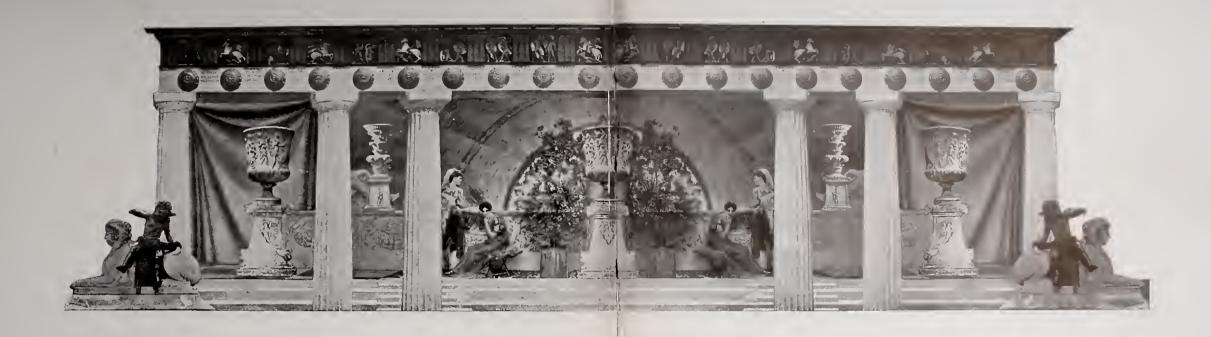








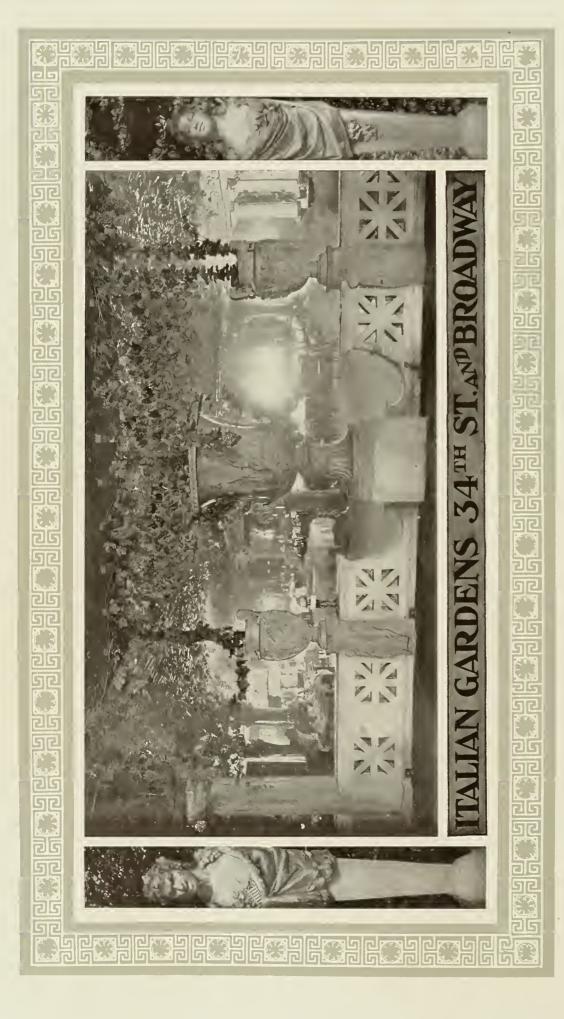


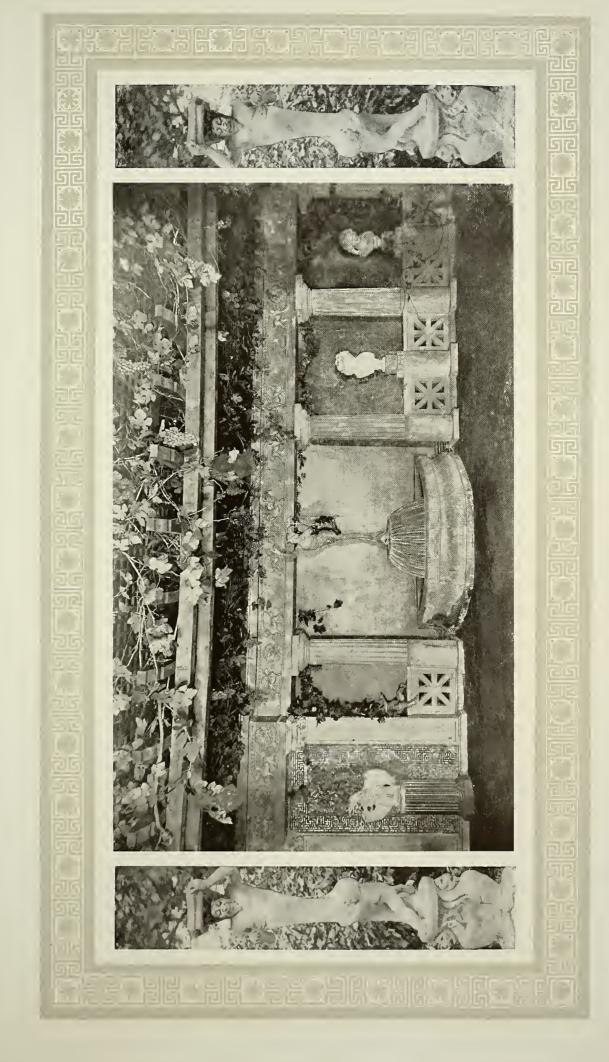




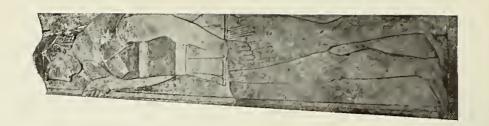








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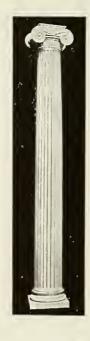
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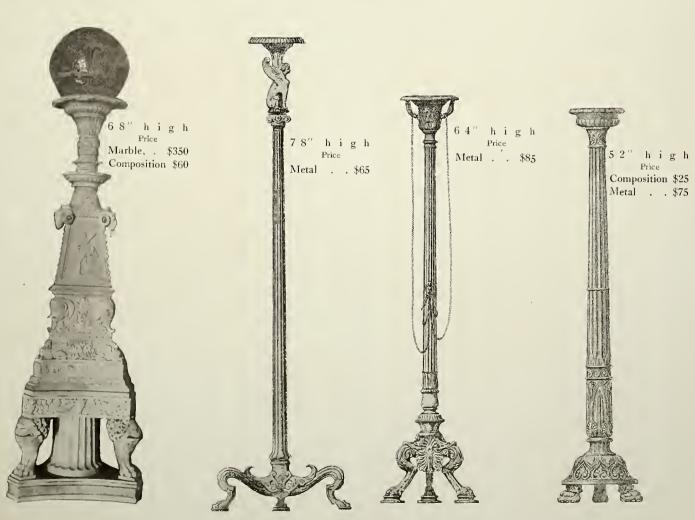
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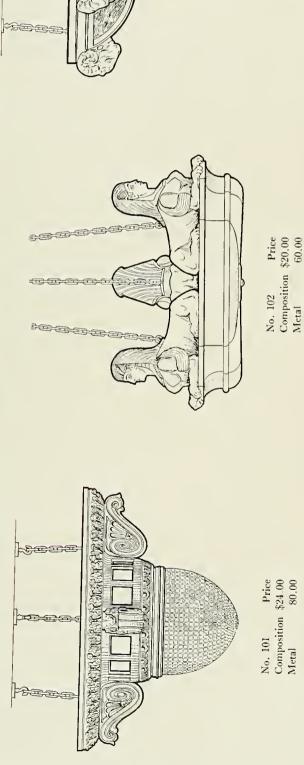
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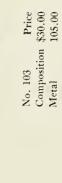
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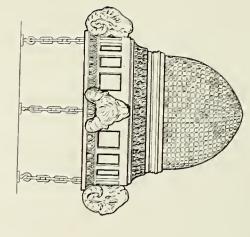


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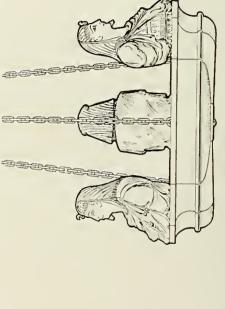
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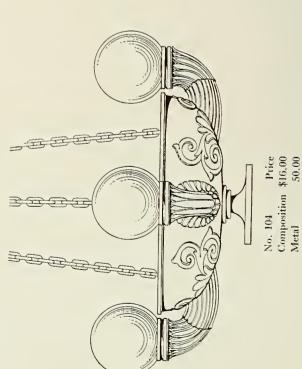




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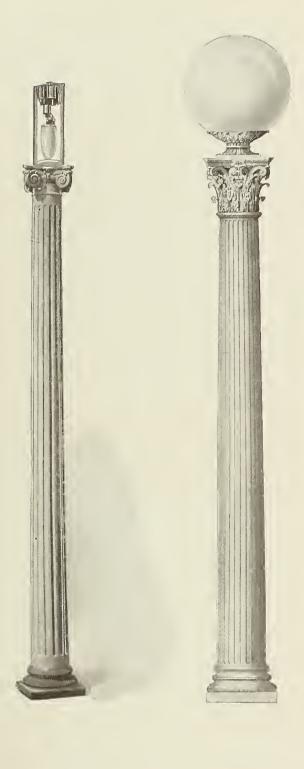
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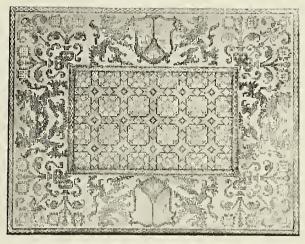
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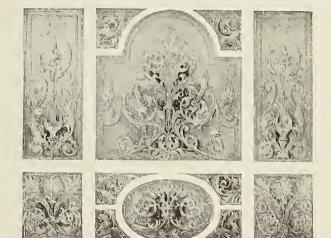
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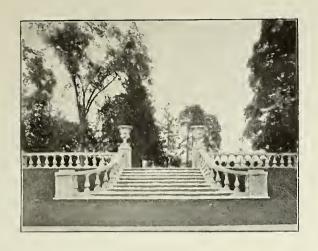
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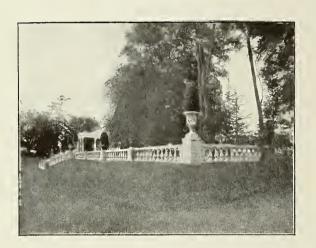


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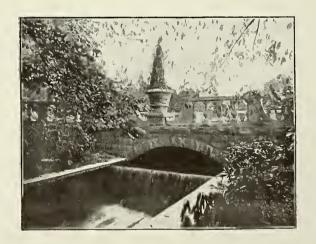




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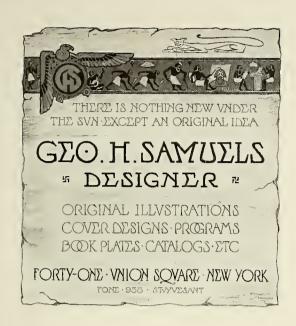
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